Parole revoked for convicted murderer. PAGE 4
Congressional delegation visits Palau to boost ties. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023
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The Commonwealth Ports Authority board meets in an emergency meeting yesterday at the CPA conference room at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.
KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Airport landing fees up 90%

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has finally done what they've been dreading to do—they have adopted a new rate methodology that reflects a whopping 90% increase in landing fees and a 79% increase in terminal rental fees.

See AIRPORT on Page 4

Manglona nominated anew to post

» Biden names 37th round of judicial nominees, names 1 new nominee to serve as US Marshal

President Joe Biden has nominated Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to serve once more as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI for another 10 years.

The White House announced Biden's new nominees in a news release yesterday, with Manglona being one of four judicial nominees to

See MANGLONA on Page 4

IPI now owes CCC, gov't $76.5M

Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero, third from left, presides over the monthly CCC board meeting yesterday at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai. Also in the photo is the CCC legal counsel, assistant attorney general Keisha Blaise. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

» With all court decisions, CCC chair says IPI is 'a done deal'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC now owing the CNMI government and the Commonwealth Casino Commission a combined $76.5 million, CCCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero believes the exclusive Saipan casino licensee is now "a done deal."

Speaking at the CCC

See IPI on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
29

Flores is named interim education chief

Donna Moore Flores, the current director of the Special Education Program of the CNMI Public School System, has been appointed interim education commissioner by the Board of Education effective Sept. 2, 2023.

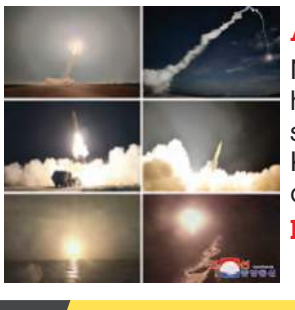
Flores

A BOE news release last night announced Flores' appointment, saying her lengthy experience in public service is a testament to her capability to provide a steady leadership at the Public

See FLORES on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Millions more U.S. workers will be eligible for overtime pay under a new rule being proposed.
PAGE 14



ASIA
North Korea said it has simulated nuclear strikes on South Korea and drilled on occupying its rival.
PAGE 16

OFF THE WALL
Some 15,000 people, including tourists, paste each other with tomatoes at the "Tomatina" festival.
PAGE 18

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Bill allocates $1M for SNILD operations, shuttle service, others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation unanimously passed yesterday a local bill to re-appropriate $1 million that was originally appropriated for the Northern Marianas College but was not remitted to NMC.

With all 18 SNILD members present at the session voting "yes," the SNILD passed House Local Bill 23-23, Draft 1.

The bill, which was introduced yesterday by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) and co-sponsored by several other members of the House of Representatives, proposes to allocate $200,000 for the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for its operations, and $15,000 to the Marianas Visitors Authority for its shuttle service for tourists.

MVA has been funding the shuttle service since September 2022, but according to MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, its funding was already exhausted yesterday.

Concepcion asked the delegation last Aug. 2 to allocate $15,000 for one month to continue the shuttle service without interruption.

Before the voting and offering a floor amendment to the bill, Attao thanked SNILD floor leader Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), who, as a member of the House in the 22nd Legislature, introduced the legislation that appropriated $1 million to NMC and $1 million to the hospital.

Attao said Babauta's legislation was intended for the NMC project to build a new campus. "She championed that, we supported it. Unfortunately, those monies never made it to NMC," he said.

Attao said they met with NMC earlier this year and that was one of the biggest issue why they couldn't move on with the project, therefore they presented another funding source during that meeting. That is now Saipan Local Law 23-2, and the new funding source allowed NMC to proceed with the project and NMC was able to break ground.

Under the bill, $200,000 will be re-appropriated to the Saipan Mayor's Office for its personnel/operations; $100,000 for Substance Abuse and Recovery on Saipan for its personnel/operations; $50,000 to Karidat for its personnel/operations on Saipan; and $50,000 to the Center of Living Independently for its personnel/operations.

The legislation also re-appropriates $20,000 to the Department of Public Works for its fuel and lubricant needs; $10,000 to the Kagman Agricultural Farms and Producers Association Inc.; $15,000 to the Northern Mariana Islands Baseball Federation; $20,000 to the Commonwealth Women's Association; $20,000 to the Division of Customs for

See BILL on Page 4

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This project was supported by Grant# H61MC30523 from HRSA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA or HHS.

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Get vaccinated vs flu!

As the CNMI enters the flu season, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. recommends that all individuals 6 months and older in the CNMI receive the annual flu vaccine for the 2023-2024 season, especially for those at higher risk of developing flu-related complications such as children younger than 2 years old, individuals 65 years and older, pregnant women, individuals with chronic conditions, and immunocompromised individuals.

CHCC expect the flu vaccine shipments to arrive in the upcoming weeks and encourages community members to contact their healthcare provider or the CNMI Immunization Program at (670) 236-8745.

The flu (influenza) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs and can spread person-to-person through coughing, sneezing, and talking. Different types and subtypes of flu circulate and causes illness each year, in which the vaccines are able to provide protection that will prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

Flu vaccines will be available at the following CHCC clinics or locations:

■ CHCC Immunization Clinic Family Care Clinic Children's Clinic

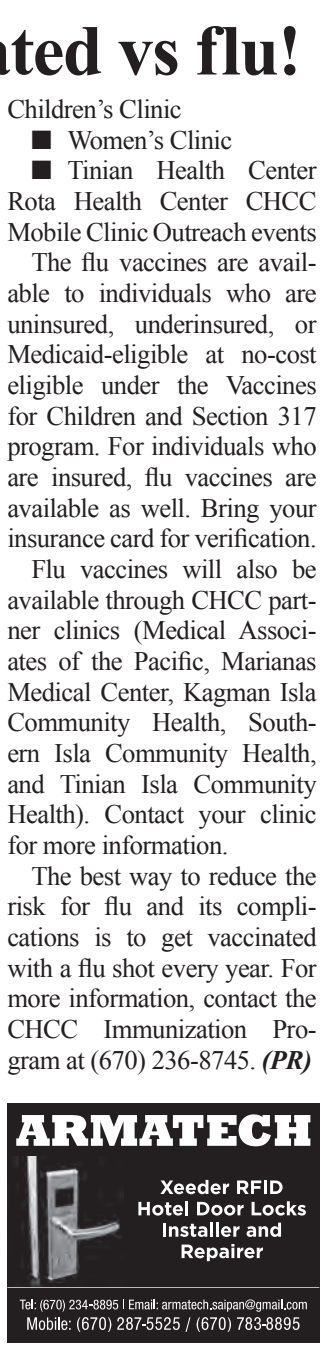
■ Women's Clinic

■ Tinian Health Center Rota Health Center CHCC Mobile Clinic Outreach events

The flu vaccines are available to individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, or Medicaid-eligible at no-cost eligible under the Vaccines for Children and Section 317 program. For individuals who are insured, flu vaccines are available as well. Bring your insurance card for verification.

Flu vaccines will also be available through CHCC partner clinics (Medical Associates of the Pacific, Marianas Medical Center, Kagman Isla Community Health, Southern Isla Community Health, and Tinian Isla Community Health). Contact your clinic for more information.

The best way to reduce the risk for flu and its complications is to get vaccinated with a flu shot every year. For more information, contact the CHCC Immunization Program at (670) 236-8745. ***(PR)***



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Parole revoked for convicted murderer

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole unanimously agreed to revoke the parole of convicted murderer Edward Blas who, just months after being released, threatened others at knifepoint.

After hours of deliberation yesterday, all seven Parole Board members voted to revoke parole—or early release—for Blas, who recently pleaded guilty to numerous crimes following his release from prison.

According to board member Anthony Macaranas, he voted in favor of revoking Blas' release because he showed that he does not intend to obey the law or become a law-abiding citizen, even as he was out on parole. Because of this, Macaranas said, he believes Blas should return to prison for further discipline and rehabilitation.

"If we allow him to remain free, repercussions could be much worse. He's had two chances. So, for the sake of public safety and Blas' safety as well, I believe parole should be revoked," he said during yesterday's deliberation.

According to board member Christopher Leon Guerrero, he voted in favor of revoking Blas' bail because he had only been out on parole a few months before committing multiple violations, thereby showing no regard for the law.

"Overall, I believe [Blas] doesn't have it in him right now to abide by the law," he said.

Board member Ignacio Mendiola echoed his fellow board members' sentiments, stating that, despite the heinous crime he committed back when he was 16, Blas was still given a chance to do better when he was granted parole. However, he still deliberately chose to violate the conditions of his release.

"I strongly believe his bail should be revoked," he said.

Board member George Hocog stated that Blas has shown, through his conduct while out in the community, that he does not fear the consequences of violating that law.

"[Blas] thinks he's above the law," he said.

Immediately after voting to revoke his parole, parole officers were dispatched to pick Blas up and bring him back to the Department of Corrections where he will continue to serve the remainder of his 24-year sentence.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Blas was recently involved in a case in November 2022 where he allegedly threatened to kill two people with a kitchen knife and he also punched his girlfriend. The girlfriend told police that Blas was mad because he could not find his slippers and that he stabbed a plastic table in anger. Blas was charged with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and three counts of disturbing the peace.

Before being paroled, Blas was serving a 24-year prison sentence for murder in the first degree, which he committed during the perpetration of burglary and/or robbery.

Blas was convicted in 2011 for the brutal killing of a Marianas High School security guard with two others as part of a plan to rob the school. He became eligible for parole after serving one-third of his sentence.

Blas, who was 16 at that time of the incident, was charged as an adult with two other teen co-defendants in 2009.

FLORES

From page 1

School System.

The BOE has vetted four PSS employees for the position to succeed Dr. Alfred B. Ada, who resigned due to health reasons effective Sept. 1.

"Following the selection process…Flores was appointed based on her merit. Her over 25 years in public service attests to her capability and skills that she is able to provide a steady leadership that responds to the needs, values, and goals of our [PSS] and its stakeholders," said BOE chair Antonio L. Borja in the news release.

As interim education commissioner, Flores will oversee the seamless transition and ensure the continuity of PSS programs and services.

Borja said that Flores "has demonstrated unmatched leadership skills and rational thinking solely earned from hard work— and our school district is proud of her contributions. We are excited that she will assist us all in advancing the interests of our students and stakeholders."

Flores holds a master's degree in education law with concentration in K-12 (cum laude) from Shepard Broad College of Law- Nova Southeastern University, Florida, and a bachelor's degree in education with concentration in Rehabilitative Human Services from the Northern Marianas College.

"My gratitude and appreciation to our BOE members for their trust. It was not an easy decision for me to accept this appointment, and, because we have urgent tasks ahead of us, I was assured by our policymakers of their support in our work to be able to deliver what is expected of us," Flores said in a statement. "We will continue working with our education leaders, advocates, parents and families in providing optimum educational services to our students."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MANGLONA

From page 1

federal district courts, describing them as "extraordinarily qualified, experienced, and devoted to the rule of law and our Constitution."

Manglona is the current chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, but her first 10-year term expired in 2021. With no successor being named in her stead, Manglona continued in her role and now Biden is nominating her for the position once more for another 10-year term.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) congratulated Manglona on her new nomination.

"Having a person from the Northern Mariana Islands serving as the chief judge for our federal court is a point of pride and inspiration for all of us," Sablan said in a statement yesterday. "We are fortunate to have someone of Judge Manglona's integrity and intellect working for the people of the Marianas in this position. …The President clearly believes Judge Manglona has performed to the highest standards. And I want to thank him for his decision to nominate her for another 10-year term."

Sablan first recommended Manglona, at the time an associate judge in the CNMI Superior Court, to then-President Barack Obama in January 2011 to fill the federal court seat in the CNMI. Obama made the nomination and Manglona was confirmed by the Senate in July 2011.

When Biden was sworn into office in 2021, Sablan recommended a second term for Manglona.

Unlike most federal district court judges, who have lifetime appointments, the Marianas District Court judge, as well as those in Guam and the Virgin Islands, receive 10-year terms.

This will be Biden's 37th round of nominees for federal judicial positions, bringing the number of announced federal judicial nominees to 184.

The President is also announcing his intent to nominate one individual to serve as U.S. Marshal, who will be responsible for "upholding the rule of law and was chosen for his devotion to enforcing the law, his professionalism, his experience and credentials, and his dedication to pursuing equal justice for all."

The President has now announced 23 nominees to serve as U.S. Marshals.

Besides Manglona, the other judicial nominees are Colleen Holland; John A. Kazen, who has served as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Texas since 2018; and Micah W. J. Smith. Both Holland and Smith will be new to the judgeship.

Manglona has served as the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI since 2011. From 2003 to 2011, Manglona served as an associate judge of the CNMI Superior Court. From 2004 to 2008, she also served as justice pro tem on the Guam Supreme Court. Manglona was previously the deputy attorney general in 2002 and then the attorney general of the CNMI from 2002 to 2003. As an assistant attorney general in the CNMI Office of the Attorney General from 1998 to 2002, she served as a prosecutor and then a civil litigator. Manglona served as a law clerk to the CNMI Superior Court from 1997 to 1998. She received her J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1996 and her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1990.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

AIRPORT

From page 1

With the CPA's fiscal year 2024 budget the center of discussions during an emergency meeting yesterday at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, board members reluctantly but unanimously voted to adopt a 90% increase in landing fees for both the Saipan airport's main terminal and the commuter terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In addition, the CPA board also adopted a 79% increase in its current terminal rental rate for both the Saipan International Airport's main terminal and for the commuter terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

With the newly adopted budget, the CPA terminal rental rates for the Saipan International Airport's main terminal goes up from $19.49 per square foot to $34.92. Meanwhile, the terminal rental rates for all CNMI commuter terminals is now up from $7.79 to $13.97.

As for landing fees, with the 90% increase, CPA will now be charging international airline carriers $15.25 per thousand pounds of certified maximum gross landing weight of the aircraft; they were previously being charged $8.01. As for CNMI commuter terminals, the 90%-increase would bring landing fees up from $4.81 to $9.15.

Aside from the increase in rates, the CPA board also adopted an eight-hour cut for all CPA employees and suspended its airline incentive program.

In addition, CPA also increased the current parking rate at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport parking lot.

All these changes will take effect come fiscal year 2024, which starts on Oct. 1, 2023.

Speaking during yesterday's budget hearing, board member Pete Reyes stated that this is the reality: CPA runs the CNMI's ports on its own without government subsidy, therefore they have to make the unpopular decision to raise rates to keep the airports open.

"Our job isn't to be popular; our job is to keep the airports open. I know this is an unpopular decision, but we need to support it. I will continue to support keeping the airports open until the time I leave," he said.

Reyes' term is set to expire this October.

CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds explained that CPA has had to make these extreme changes in order to keep the airports open and, based on the number of arrivals and the number of airlines the CNMI currently has coming in, increasing rates is the only viable option to keep CNMI's airports open.

"When I said CPA was in a world of hurt, its not just CPA, because CPA is passing on these charges to the airlines. The only way that we can bring these costs down is if we bring in new airlines. I don't care where the tourists come from. All I care about is keeping the airports open and to do that, we need money and the only way we can make that money is by getting more airlines to come here," she said.

IPI

From page 1

monthly board meeting yesterday at the Springs Plaza Building, DeLeon Guerrero said that IPI will have a better chance of winning the Powerball Lottery than the U.S. Supreme Court actually hearing their case in connection with the CCC's complaints.

"It's just my humble opinion. That's very remote. So we are back to say, that's a done deal," he said.

As of August 2023, IPI reportedly now owes the CNMI government $62 million in casino license fees and the CCC $14.5 million in outstanding fees.

With respect to the annual casino license fee, IPI reportedly owes $15,502,570 each from August 2020 to August 2023—for a total of $62,010,280.

In the case of the CCC, IPI allegedly owes the casino commission $3,150,000 in annual casino regulatory fees from October 2020 to October 2023, $5 million in consolidated fines/penalties, $94,068 in arbitration costs, $25,000 in unpaid obligations—for a total of $14,569,068.

DeLeon Guerrero recounted that they first issued orders against IPI in 2020 and those orders ended up in hearings, with the hearings resulting in some CCC orders and imposition of fines. Those fines were subsequently appealed to the Superior Court and Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan has affirmed the CCC's ruling. IPI then decided to appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court and that the latter issued its final decision last week.

"It's been a long journey that has finally come to hopefully a final destination," DeLeon Guerrero said.

In his plain reading of the CNMI high court's decision, he said it basically says that whatever amounts the statute requires regarding the annual exclusive license fee and the annual regulatory fee, those are due and they continue to accrue.

He said the CCC has now to consider a reasonable time for IPI to make those payments.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BILL

From page 2

fuel of its two maritime enforcement boats; $45,000 for the 2023 Flame Tree Arts Festival; and $25,000 to the Saipan Agricultural Association.

The legislation also re-appropriates $50,000 to the Joeten Kiyu Public Library; $5,000 for the Island Summer Fest; $25,000 for Tasi To Table's educational and practical seminars; $25,000 to the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs; $10,000 to the I Sanhalom Laguna Anglers Association; $40,000 to the Inetnun Kutturan Natibu Marianas; $25,000 for the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council; and $50,000 to the Micronesian Legal Services Corp.

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From left, Mecilynn Kaneshi Palec (CNMI SBDCN associate network director), Nadine Deleon Guerrero (CNMI SBDC network director), Kenneth Lujan (SBA Guam branch manager), Charmaine Hofschneider (CNMI SBDCN administrative office manager), Roman Tudela (CNMI SBDCN marketing manager/outreach specialist). NMC

SBA lauds CNMI Small Business Development Center

The U.S. Small Business Administration recently recognized the CNMI Small Business Development Center at the Northern Marianas College for its important role in fostering entrepreneurship, supporting local businesses, and driving economic growth across the local business community.

Kenneth Lujan, the Guam branch manager of the U.S. Small Business Administration, commended the CNMI SBDC during a site visit last week.

"The CNMI Small Business Development Center has played a major role in the economic stability of the CNMI through its counseling and training services," Lujan said. "To effectively deliver such services and programs to the community requires a concerted effort from its staff, stakeholders, and host (Northern Marianas College).

"Maintaining and meeting the compliance requirements imposed by the Small Business Administration assures the community of the high quality level of services being provided as well as upholding the integrity of the program. I look forward to the continued improvements and development of new programs suitable for the island's small business community," Lujan added.

The SBA site visit focused on the following areas: goals and milestones (unique clients served, jobs supported, new businesses started, and capital infusion), administrative processes, the Network's effectiveness in collaborating with federal, state, and local business assistance programs to serve small businesses, and creative solutions in addressing unique challenges to the region.

"Small businesses are truly the backbone of every economy," SBDC Network director Nadine Deleon Guerrero said. "We are grateful for this acknowledgment and remain steadfast in our mission to provide high-quality services while continuously improving and developing new programs to empower our island's small business community."

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow.

The CNMI SBDC Network is composed of the CNMI SBDC lead center on Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. The CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with SBA and NMC. ***(NMC)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

ROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-013-23
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 06, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 01, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS **(IFB-013-23)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 06, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Date: _____

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP23-CHCC/CAS-019

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
"PROCUREMENT OF MOBILE OPEN MRI"
(Outright Purchase, Shipping, Delivery, Installation, Training, and Commissioning)
for CHCC Hospital Department

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
 # 05-2023(b)

Opening date: August 14, 2023 **Closing date: September 01, 2023**

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Airport Manager	UNGRADED
	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) AOA Controller I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Rota Ports Manager	UNGRADED
	(2) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.)
	(1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance I	PL 5/1 to 5/12($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or ***CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 01, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARRIVAL TERMINAL RESTROOM DRAINAGE REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Arrival Terminal Restroom Drainage Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-001-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 1, 2023 CHST.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 (CHST).** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: August 8, 2023

FROM RIDGE TO REEF

A Series of Articles Written by the
2023 DCRM Summer Interns
Issue No. 1 of 8
www.dcrm.gov.mp

The Mystery of Non-Point Source Pollution

JUDE LITULUMAR

"Small actions bring big change." A phrase that I thought was so broad until entering the 2023 DCRM Summer Internship Program. As a Non-Point Source (NPS) intern under the Division of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Surveillance & Non-Point Source Branch, I learned that the things that we do to our environment can contribute to bigger issues we thought were out of our control.

NPS is an umbrella term that refers to the pollution of our waters from a non-specific source. This occurrence in the CNMI can be caused by rainfall, which fathers pollutants from a variety of sources and diffuses them into our water sources (streams, lakes, beaches, etc.). "Non-point source pollution is the major cause of impairment of US surface waters" (Science Direct). Impaired waters can harm wildlife habitats, prevent recreational use of our waters, introduce illnesses and ailments, and can also affect our food supply. Some food our communities frequently eat, like fish, can be exposed to toxic chemicals in the impaired waters, which will eventually spread to humans after consumption. NPS pollution is not easily fixable, but can be dealt with to lessen the severity of its impacts.

The main focus of my project is the storm drains around Garapan. With assistance from the Department of Public Works, we were able to monitor and replace storm drain guards at selected storm drains in the Paseo de Marianas area. These guards, established in 2021, held back sediment and debris from entering and potentially blocking the drainage. In addition, I created graphs on Microsoft Excel with data ranging back to 2011 to

measure the impacts of the newly installed storm drain guards and how effective it is when it comes to preventing debris from entering the ocean. Outreach was also a big part of my project as I presented to the local youth and developed an infographic that best informs others about NPS pollution. Since this type of pollution affects everyone, I hope that my project would spread awareness on the impacts of NPS pollution.

Through this internship, I learned that mindfulness paired with initiative is a powerful thing. Simple things like picking up after yourself or cleaning out your septic tank every five years ensure that one less source of pollution will enter our precious bodies of water. Although NPS pollution is a difficult problem to resolve, I am confident that if everyone does their part, our water will be cleaner, safer, and better.

Baker, Lawrence A, et al. "Introduction to Nonpoint Source Pollution in the United States and Prospects for Wetland Use." Ecological Engineering, 3 Mar. 2003, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/092585749290023U.

Color Your Way Through the CNMI's Waters

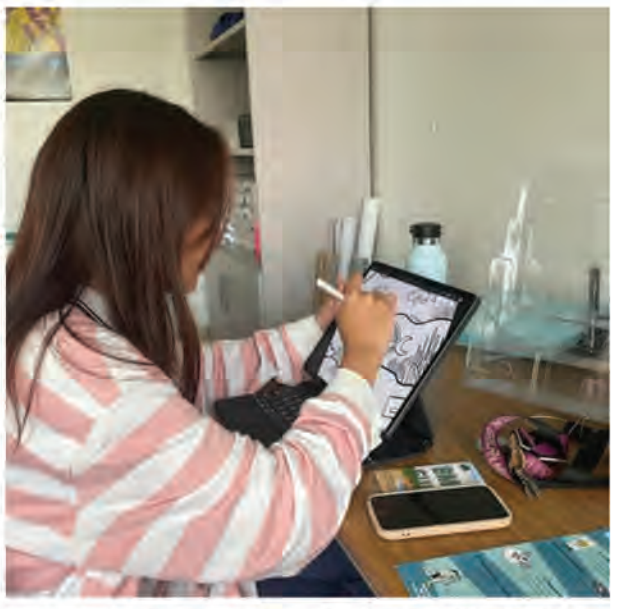
BRIGIT TABUENA

Nothing's more fun than an adventure with Bino the Bluespine Unicornfish around the CNMI's near-shore waters! Grab your crayons and engage in some fun activities to learn more about the CNMI's coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, initiatives to restore coastal health, and methods to save our marine environment with Bino!

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management provides learning resources that are tailored to address national and regional priorities and efforts that assist in building local capacity, among others. This summer, I had the opportunity to create a fun and educational coloring book containing CNMI-specific information that will be added to our region's resource toolbox, funded by NOAA. The creation of this coloring book allows for more up-to-date materials to be distributed throughout the CNMI and across the region and nation, teaching children about 7 years old and above about the importance of the CNMI's marine ecosystems and ways to protect them.

In order to complete my project, I brainstormed fun activities and a story line that would attract the young audience. I also took the time to go around to other programs under the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) to compile important information and image references that should be spread to the community regarding coral reefs, marine life, and ecosystems. I worked alongside my mentor, Janice Castro, DCRM programs and NOAA members to create a coloring book that the CNMI will hopefully be proud of. In the internship, I got to experience shoreline monitoring, rain garden restoration, and beach clean-ups, all of which allowed me to visualize what to put in my coloring book. All of this was done in the DCRM office with just an iPad, Procreate, Canva, and creative input from anyone willing to contribute! You can grab a complete copy of the coloring book at the Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality's DCRM office to see the results for yourself!

Providing a CNMI-focused coloring book to the world and mostly to the CNMI will educate our youth about marine life and coastal zones and hopefully inspire them to step up and make a difference. Teaching others about our coastal



resources is important because "Recognition, understanding and appreciation of the various goods and services provided by coastal ecosystems" link to human health and sustenance (Lakshmi 1). Therefore, the more people educated, the more aware we will be, the more initiative we will take, the healthier we will be!

Lakshmi, Ahana. "Coastal ecosystem services & human wellbeing." The Indian journal of medical research vol. 153,3 (2021): 382-387. doi: 10.4103/ijmr.IJMR_695_21

Congressional delegation visits Palau to boost ties

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A bipartisan nine-member congressional delegation recently visited the Republic of Palau, led by House Committee on Natural Resources chair Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), to underscore the importance of the relationship between the United States and Palau.

During their time in Palau, the members of Congress met with President Surangel Whipps Jr., and the ministers of State, Finance, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment, and Infrastructure, and spoke with lawmakers in the National Congress. Members toured the joint operations center that supports the Palau Maritime Security Governance Project, and met with leading scientists working in agriculture and horticulture to improve Palau's food security.

The delegation also visited the island of Peleliu and paid their respects to the U.S. Marines who bravely fought there in World War II.

"I feel a kinship with the Republic of Palau, and each of the Freely Associated States, because our islands have much in common, including natural island beauty, and respect for our historic traditions," said Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa), who was part of the delegation. "I am confident the U.S. and Palau will work closely together for years to come in our special partnership that keeps a large area of the Pacific free and open. Thank you especially to my friend, President Surangel Whipps, and the government leaders in our meetings who do so much to make sure this key friendship is effective and beneficial for Palauans, Americans, and all our Pacific allies."

Westerman said, "America and the Republic of Palau have a historic relationship through the Compacts of Free Association. This nation holds an important place in America's historic consciousness through the sacrifices made here by Americans and Palauans in World War II. Because of our important and valued relationship with Palau, the Indo-Pacific region and the world are made safer from the threats of the People's Republic of China. While visiting the capital, we crossed paths with delegations from Taiwan and Japan which only serves to underscore the commitment the United States and our allies are making in the region. We traveled to Palau as close partners in the Pacific, but we leave as close friends. I'd like to thank His Excellency President Surangel Whipps Jr. for hosting us on this historic trip, and I'm confident U.S.-Palauan relations will only grow stronger in the years to come."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The congressional delegation, led by House Committee on Natural Resources chair Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), meets with Palau President Surangel Whipps Jr.

In the 118th Congress, Westerman is prioritizing the strengthening America's presence in the Indo-Pacific region with the creation of the bipartisan Indo-Pacific Task Force, chaired by Radewagen and co-chaired by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

The committee and the task force are conducting oversight on issues facing the U.S. Pacific territories and Freely Associated States in the Indo-Pacific region.

Westerman led the CODEL of nine members to the region to see these issues firsthand and hear from local communities to further understand the threat of the People's Republic of China under the Chinese Communist Party.

Besides Westerman, Radewagen, and Sablan, other members of the delegation were U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.), U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.), U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-N.M.), U.S. Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.), U.S. Delegate Jim Moylan (R-Guam), and U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.). ***(PR)***

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CNMI GOVERNMENT
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Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the Thomas Camacho Mendiola Commercial Seaport Commercial Marina Perimeter Fencing, Project No. CPA-RS-001-23, for the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"THOMAS CAMACHO MENDIOLA COMMERCIAL SEAPORT COMMERCIAL MARINA PERIMETER FENCING, CPA-SS-001-23"* and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of the Marina Perimeter Fencing including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless this notice to bidders is cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order, made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at Ports Manager's Confernce Room, located at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. **Attendance is Mandatory.** A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Mr Alex C. Tudela, Procurement Officer at atudela@cnmiports.com with copy to Fermin R. Flores at ferminf@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS PER CALENDAR DAY ($100.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-26 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all local and Federal requirements under this procurement.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date:

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2023

Opening date: August 09, 2023 **Closing date: September 11, 2023**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY: UNCLASSIFIED**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATURE OF WORK

The Executive Director is the CPA chief executive officer, serving at the pleasure of the CPA Board of Directors and responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of the CPA Board of Directors. Statutory powers and duties of the Executive Director are listed in the Commonwealth Code at 2 CMC §2127.

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for the planning, supervision, and coordination of the management, operation, and maintenance of all CNMI airports and seaports, as stated in the CPA statue and regulations. The Executive Director is in charge and control of the operation and maintenance of all CPA ports. The Executive Director is also in full charge and control of construction of all CPA ports, facilities, and other necessary or incidental works controlled by or required to be constructed or repaired by CPA. The Executive Director exercises independent judgment in finding solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist.

The Executive Director is to devote full time to the business of CPA. The Executive Director shall be on call at all times after normal working hours and on weekends and holidays. The Executive Director shall also make recommendations to the CPA Board of Directors on matters impacting airport and seaport management, maintenance, and operation, represent CPA at meetings and conferences and before community groups, service organizations, civic committees, and technical industry organizations with respect to airport and seaport matters, and perform related duties as required.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Monday, September 11, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

BPD submits BEAD 5-Year Action Plan to NTIA

The Broadband Policy and Development office under the CNMI Office of the Governor has submitted its Five-Year Action Plan to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration on how it will implement the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, which aims to improve internet services in the CNMI. The action plan outlines strategies for enhancing internet accessibility and affordability for all members of the CNMI community.

Having submitted the action plan within the required deadline, the BPD has now started work on an initial proposal for the BEAD program. This proposal outlines specific projects aimed at addressing pertinent challenges such as high latency, elevated costs, and limited availability of affordable internet services in the CNMI.

Alongside the BEAD Initial Proposal, the BPD is currently preparing a Digital Equity Five-Year Action Plan. This strategic blueprint is designed to foster digital equity throughout the CNMI, assuring equal access to digital resources and opportunities for everyone. Embracing its unofficial tagline "chasing zero," the BPD envisions a future where all CNMI residents will have access to free internet service.

The BPD has secured a federal allotment of $81 million and guidance from NTIA to implement its action plan for the CNMI.

Recognizing that stakeholders play a crucial role in its success, the BPD is actively seeking input and feedback from all internet users in the CNMI. To facilitate this, it hosts a weekly virtual meeting every Friday at 3pm, open to all interested parties. "This broadband initiative doesn't just enhance our global connections between the Marianas and the world. It will also lead to more affordable and accessible services that directly influence our lifestyle," said Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. "As the CNMI forges ahead in this digital age, we aspire to elevate public consciousness about our internet security stance, build strategic resilience, provide clear direction for our network's future expansion, and importantly, lay the groundwork for a flourishing digital ecosystem within the Marianas that will enrich the education system, enhance health services, stimulate economic growth and invest in our future workforce. Our future generations deserve nothing less."

To learn more about the BPD's initiatives, view and comment on the Five-year Action Plan, or join the weekly Friday Stakeholder meetings, visit the BPD website at bpd.cnmi.gov. The meeting link can also be accessed on the website. For direct invitations to these weekly meetings, email cnmi.bpd@gmail.com.

The BPD ensures transparency and accessibility by making meetings and information available on the website. The commitment to improving internet services and promoting digital equity in the CNMI aligns with BPD's core objectives and values. ***(PR)***

From left to right, Glen Hunter, special assistant, Broadband Policy and Development; Gov. Arnold I. Palacios; Ethan Lake, National Telecommunications and Information Administration federal program officer for Pacific Territories; and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Nominations sought for MINA's Annual Green Awards

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance is seeking nominations for this year's Green Awards for presentation at the annual Green Gala event on Oct. 6, 2023, at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. This award recognizes individuals, companies, and schools who promote environmental stewardship, and who are committed to the conservation of the Commonwealth's precious natural resources.

Awards are given in the following categories, and nominations will be accepted from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota:

■ **The Environmental Champion Award:** An individual who has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the environment and preservation of the CNMI's natural resources.

■ **The Environmental Heroes Award**: A school group or club whose students exemplify an eagerness to learn about and demonstrate a passion for conservation.

■ **The Green Business of the Year**: A business that is committed to conservation by incorporating the green business culture through its entire organization.

Nominations must include: 1) your name and contact information; 2) your nominee and the category you are nominating in; and 3) a brief narrative explaining why your nominee should receive a Green Award.

Submit nominations by the deadline—Friday, Sept. 15—to minaoutreach@gmail.com.

Tickets for the Green Gala are now available for purchase at events.mvariety.com/MINA Visit minapacific.org, Instagram.com/minaoutreach, or call 233-7333 for more information. ***(PR)***

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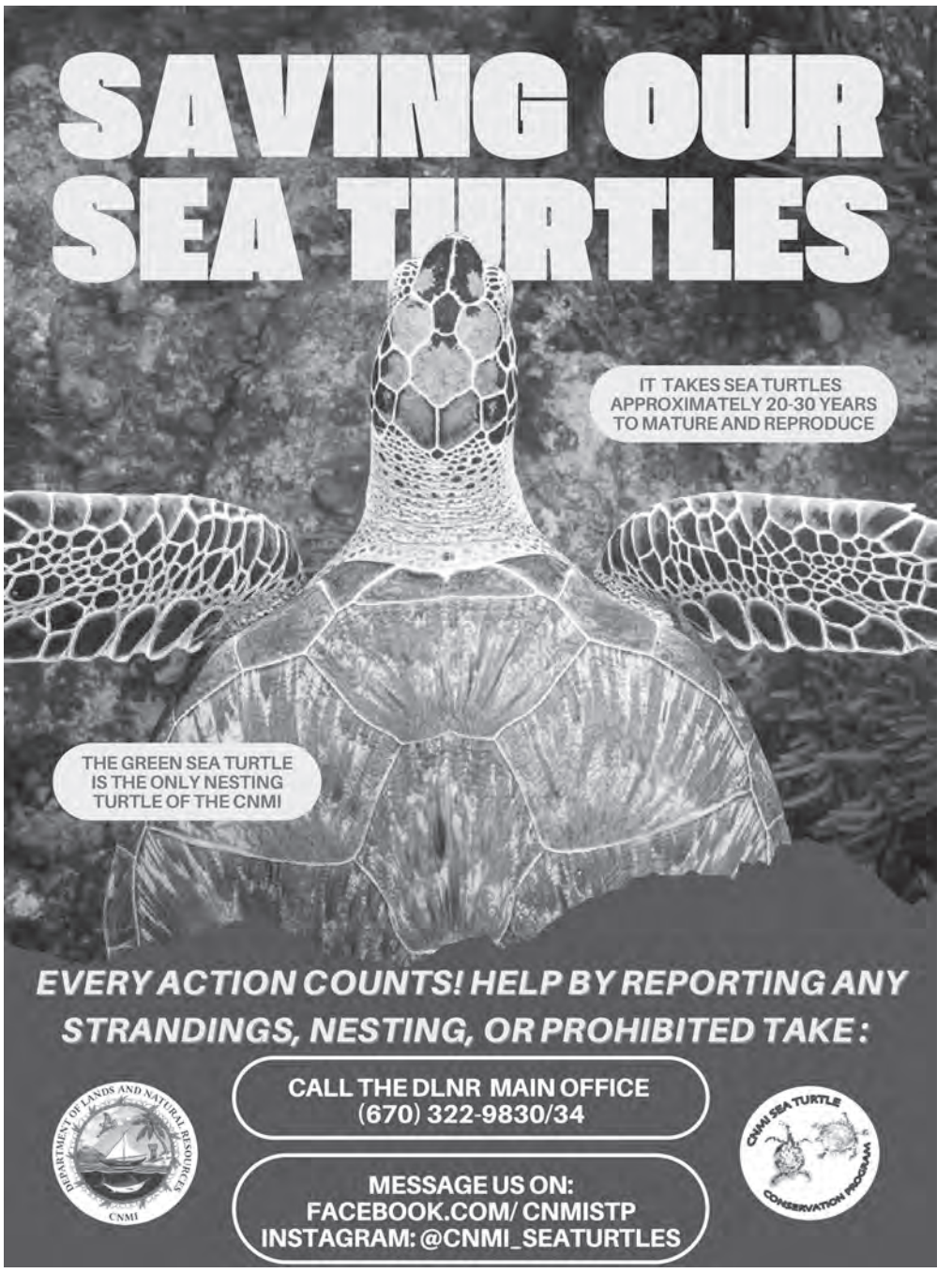
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Shawn Curtis Holt, General Manager
General Asia Pacific Construction, LLC
World War II Lane, Garapan
PMB 430 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 1 (541) 704-8364
E-mail: shawn.holt@gapconfuels.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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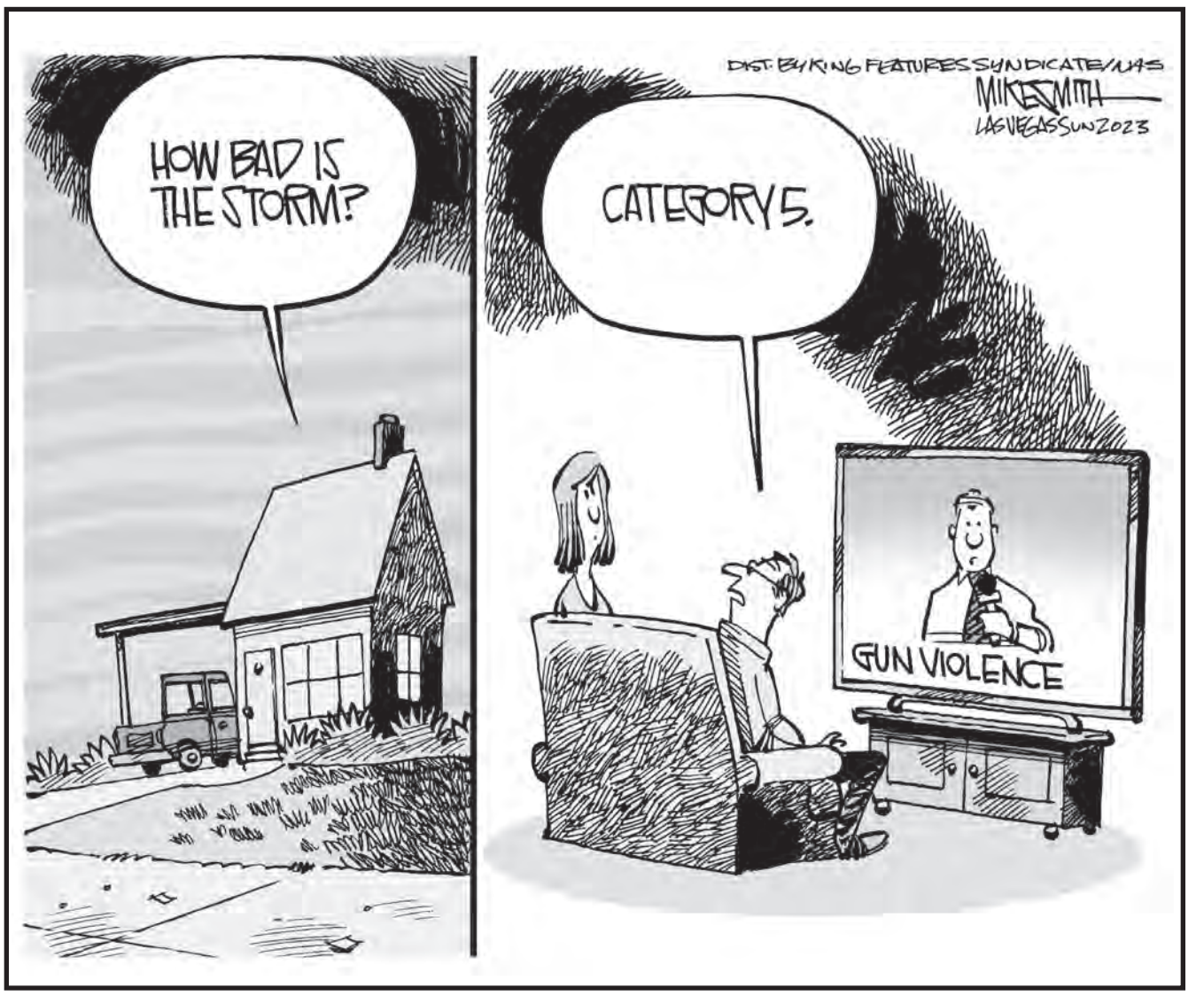

EDITORIAL

There's no place like America for gun violence

It was perfectly legal for the racist killer of three Black people at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, Fla., on Saturday to buy and possess the Glock handgun and AR-15-style rifle he used in the shootings, officials said.

A laptop belonging to Ryan Christopher Palmeter, the white 21-year-old killer, was filled with racist screeds. Officials said he had been briefly held for an involuntary psychiatric evaluation in 2017.

Two days before the Jacksonville massacre, Jason and Melissa Dunham and their three children aged 15, 12 and 9 were found shot to death in their Lake Township, Ohio, home in an apparent murder-suicide. The handgun used in the shooting belonged to Jason Dunham, police said, but it wasn't yet clear whether he was the shooter. He and his wife both had permits to carry concealed weapons.

A day before that, retired Ventura police sergeant John Snowling shot his estranged wife and eight other people at Cook's Corner, a roadhouse in Trabuco Canyon in Orange County. His wife, Marie Snowling, survived but three others died. Police shot the gunman to death. The killer lawfully acquired and possessed the .380 pistol, .38 revolver, .25 pistol and shotgun that were recovered at the scene.

A few days earlier, Orange County Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Ferguson pleaded not guilty to murdering his wife, Sheryl Ferguson. He is charged with shooting her to death in their Anaheim Hills home during an argument. His lawyer said it was an accident. Law enforcement officers recovered 47 other weapons and about 26,000 rounds of ammunition from the judge's home, all of which were apparently acquired and owned lawfully, although one rifle is unaccounted for.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that Americans' right to possess, carry and conceal weapons cannot be curtailed by laws that are not rooted in practices that existed in the late 18th century, when the 2nd Amendment was drafted and ratified. Gun advocates argue that the right to carry weapons makes Americans safer, and that any bad guy with a gun is now more likely to be stopped by a good guy with a gun—someone presumably like an armed parent, retired police officer or judge.

The targeted racist slayings understandably loomed larger in the news than the family violence. President Joe Biden said, "We must say clearly and forcefully that white supremacy has no place in America." Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, said, "Targeting people because of their race has no place in the state of Florida." Former Vice President Mike Pence, also running for president, said, "There is no place in America for racially inspired violence."

They are wrong and they know it. The American people, their politicians, their courts and their culture have made this nation the planet's preeminent place to target people for death because of their race—or for any other reason, such as their familial relationship, differing beliefs or reasons indiscernible to the rest of us. This country is exactly the place

See THERE'S on Page 11

On the climate crisis, it's time to lean into pessimism

By BRIAN KATEMAN
Los Angeles Times

Brian Kateman is co-founder of the Reducetarian Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing societal consumption of animal products. His latest book and documentary is Meat Me Halfway.

The state of the environment in California—as in the U.S.—is grim this summer. A record-breaking heat wave. The first tropical storm recorded in 84 years in the state. Another dangerous wildfire season ahead. There's no end to the bad news. What's the best way to cope with our collective climate anxiety?

Some might say that you should keep a positive outlook. In fact, if you've read about the environment lately, you've surely heard arguments in favor of "climate optimism," the view that humanity will figure out how to fix the damage we've done before we reach social and biological collapse, often characterized as "climate doomism."

There are two motivations behind this kind of positivity. The first is a genuine belief that things are going to work out. The other is a practical matter—the idea that a positive attitude is the best motivator for people to devote their time and resources to climate solutions. Or, perhaps more to the point, that climate doomism is as dangerous to the movement as climate denial. As Pilita Clark, a columnist in the Financial Times, recently wrote, "doomist thinking is dangerous because it breeds paralysis and disengagement, which is precisely what the forces of climate inaction seek."

But given the extreme climate events we're seeing month after month, I can't bring myself to embrace climate optimism. I consider myself a realist, and realistically there's very little reason to believe that everything is going to be OK.

Disastrous effects of environmental destruction are piling up far faster than anything we're doing to counter it. Focusing on doom is paralyzing, but there are real consequences to promoting a false sense of optimism. If people believe that life on this planet will continue to be comfortable, they'll be less likely to make meaningful changes in their lives—whether in having lots of kids, consuming industrially farmed meat or driving SUVs. Of course, most people would rather not think about the climate catastrophe, but the only way we can avoid catastrophe is to stop clinging to the best-case scenario.

"Scaring people into action doesn't work,"writes Hannah Ritchie, an environmental researcher at Oxford, in her argument about finding the balance between climate doom and complacent optimism. She criticizes sharing exaggerated doomsday scenarios as a tactic to get people to care—but the thing is, we don't need to stretch the truth to express how dire the situation already is.

This year is on track to be the hottest on record, and climate scientists like Kim Cobb of Brown University warn that "in another decade, this will be viewed as a relatively cool year, most likely." Communicating the fact that things are bad and getting worse isn't fearmongering, it's just honest. There is legitimate reason to be afraid, and if we can't admit that, we won't be able to adequately address the crisis.

It's not impossible to be realistic, even pessimistic, and take action at the same time. For example, it's far from certain that cell-cultivated meat—meat grown from cells in a lab rather than slaughtered animals—will ever hit the mass market. In fact, there's plenty of reason to believe that cell-cultivated meat will ultimately fail. Still, this innovation is worth pursuing, even though the technology required to bring these new meats to scale faces serious obstacles.

If we can figure out how to do this, making meat in breweries could eliminate the need for industrial animal agriculture and the detrimental effects that has on the environment. We can be realistic about the obstacles—and even the likelihood of failure—without prematurely writing off this effort.

There's a parallel here to my work with the Reducetarian Foundation, an organization focused on encouraging people to reduce their consumption of animal products and providing them with ways to do so. I don't expect our culture to end the horrendous industrialized animal agriculture that dominates our food system. But I also believe that it's our moral responsibility to try. I may be a pessimist, but I'm not a doomer. The difference? Hope. And even a slim hope is enough to justify doing everything we can.

I get the appeal of embracing optimism. It makes everything so much easier. Pessimism is exhausting—and so is action, but we have no choice. In combating the climate crisis, we don't need naive faith that we'll succeed—we need enough fear, hope and compassion to kick things into gear.

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Here's some essential advice for freshmen from a university president

By ADAM WEINBERG
Chicago Tribune

Adam Weinberg is president of Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

Members of America's college Class of 2027 will soon begin four critical years of their lives. I'm a university president who's about to preside over my 11th incoming class, and there are a few things I think every first-year student should consider to get the most out of college.

Start by being clear about why you and your family have decided to make a significant investment of time and financial resources in a college education. The purpose is to undergo intellectual and personal growth that will prepare you to launch effectively and successfully into your life and career.

There are three parts to your college journey. The first is the academic experience. Embrace it. Show up for class. Get engaged with the material, the professors, the books you read and the papers you write. Be a part of the discussions in the classroom and with your classmates and faculty members outside it. The more you put in, the more you will get out of it.

Whether you're at a large state university or a smaller private college, you will be exposed to remarkable faculty members eager to help you. Go see them in their office hours. Make it a point to seek out faculty members who can be guides and mentors who can help you think about the life you want to build for yourself.

And take a wide range of courses. You might know exactly what your major will be—or you might just think that you do. Be open to finding out and confirming where you are going academically. And that subject you have always been kind of interested in that is not part of your intended major? Take it. You'll never regret it.

The second part of the journey is campus life. Take advantage of whatever your college has to offer. Join student organizations. Watch your school athletic teams and arts productions. Attend lectures and academic department events. Find a campus job. Scan the student newspaper every single time it comes out and try new things.

Third, take advantage of your school's career resource center. Every school has one, and in my experience, most students engage with theirs too little and too late. Career resource centers are not just about lining up job interviews. They are about helping students scan the broad horizon of possible directions they can take and then getting them there.

If I were to capsulize my advice, it would be the following five things:

1. Be curious about everyone and everything at college—the people, the subjects, the classes, the ideas, the activities, the campus. Everything. You'll learn more, see more, do more and think more as a result. Replace fear, discomfort and embarrassment with curiosity. The more you are driven by curiosity, the greater the likelihood that you will succeed in challenging classes, make new friends and consider exciting possibilities for your future.

2. Try to develop the widest possible range of relationships with peers, faculty and staff. Typically, students start by developing friendships with peers who are similar to them, but that should be only the beginning. You will get the most from your college experience when you seek out and form friendships with people who have life experiences and worldviews different from yours—the wider your network of friends, the more you will learn. And again: Get to know your faculty. Relationships with faculty and staff will greatly enhance your college experience.

3. Learn to perform at a high level. You're going to college to unleash your potential and accelerate your capabilities as a person. Remember, we learn to do hard things only by doing hard things. Show up motivated, engaged, ready to fully commit and excited to be pushed by people who believe in you. You will probably stumble and maybe even experience a few failures along the way. That is normal and OK. Learn to see the inevitable challenges as an opportunity for growth and allow it to become motivating.

4. Ask for help early and often. Everything is not going to go well all of the time. Many first-year students experience days when it feels like their academic studies are crushing them, but I can assure you they won't. Other students experience challenges making friends or getting adjusted to being away from home. When things do not go well, seek out faculty and staff members who can help you learn from experience. Our campuses are filled with people who want to help you grow and flourish. The inherent challenges of college help us develop confidence in ourselves and the skills and habits to flourish.

5. Keep your mind wide open. Ground yourself in the notion that the answers that seem simple and right to you may be more complex and nuanced than you realize. Resist the impulse to judge others and instead find ways to learn from their perspective and them from yours. Find the intellectual humility to be open to the idea that you might be wrong and develop the habit of always seeking out alternative views. The most important learning takes place at the intersection of challenge, discomfort and curiosity. For this to happen, you must keep your mind wide open and be curious about the people and ideas you engage with across campus.

College is a new beginning for most students. Bring your best self, dive into your classes and surroundings, make friends with as many people as possible and brace yourself for some challenging days. And don't forget to find gratitude for this amazing moment in your life and all the opportunities ahead.

Televising Trump's trial will be the Super Bowl of politics

By JOE BATTENFELD
Boston Herald

Democrats and Georgia prosecutors will try to humiliate Donald Trump in a televised courtroom appearance and trial, but the tactic could backfire if the former president succeeds in putting the politically-tainted judicial system on trial.

Trump's first appearance in court to face his charges, which will come sometime before Aug. 25, could be the Super Bowl of politics, drawing hundreds of millions of viewers around the world.

It will be the first time live cameras have been permitted in Trump's long legal saga.

Prosecutors and the judge want the optic of treating Trump like any other criminal, complete with mug shots and showing up at the jailhouse.

There are obvious disadvantages to Trump fighting his case live on TV.

Every minute he has to spend in court is a minute he can't be out there campaigning.

Every dollar he spends defending himself, will be money he can't spend on the campaign.

Whether they stop him running for president they've already tried tying his hands behind his back and bogging down his candidacy.

But Trump—never one to shy away from cameras—could try to make the courtroom his stage in proving the charges against him are bogus and an attempt to stop his 2024 presidential campaign.

No matter what prosecutors do, it's going to seem political, especially when the lawyers and judge are Democrats.

As much as Democrats in a twisted way will enjoy seeing him humiliated, most of the country may see it differently.

It could take on a Kangaroo court feel and the people with the credibility problem could turn out to be prosecutors.

Much like Trump's poll numbers have gone up after his indictments, a trial—if it even comes before the election—could boost his chances.

The Georgia case could turn out to be one indictment too far, putting a face to the notion that this is simply a stop Trump effort.

Trump could act indignant, taking the Al Pacino, "I'm not out of order, you're out of order, this whole court is out of order" approach. He could become a martyr to his supporters.

The kitchen sink indictment against the former president for trying to overturn the Georgia election may not withstand scrutiny once Trump is allowed to present his defense.

It could show how ludicrous it is trying Trump like an organized crime kingpin with RICO charges. Did he try to corral enough votes to win the state? Yes. But he can argue that he didn't rig the election because he didn't win.

There will be an initial wow factor when Trump first appears in court, but as they slog through other appearances and the trial it could quickly become mundane—much like the Jan. 6 hearings.

The reality is most courtroom proceedings are slow-moving and boring—even with Trump at the center.

But if Trump plays his cards right, he could walk away as a political martyr—not the crooked mobster prosecutors are trying to portray.

THERE'S

From page 10

for hateful, murderous, suicidal gun violence, because this is the place for millions upon millions of guns, and the bizarre American delusion that the more of them we have, the safer and freer we are.

Pence added that his solutions include an "expedited federal death penalty for anyone engaged in a mass shooting." It's difficult to grasp how quick executions would alter the behavior of the Jacksonville killer, who shot himself to death. Or whichever member of the Dunham family pulled the trigger, the deranged Ventura cop who died at the scene or the judge who claims to have shot his wife by accident.

Firearms are the leading cause of death of juveniles in the U.S. Biden recently unveiled a plan to increase access to mental health care, including in schools, in part to address the causes of gun violence.

The far-right organization called Moms for Liberty said, in effect, don't you dare. Mental health care "has NO place in public schools," the group said in a social media post earlier this month.

At a special session of the Tennessee Legislature called in response to the slaying of three children and three adults at a Nashville elementary school in March, lawmakers last week rejected gun control proposals and instead introduced measures to allow more guns in schools.

Speaking of schools, a 16-year-old boy was shot to death at a high school football game Friday night in Choctaw, Okla. Several others were shot as well. Don't confuse that incident with the one at the high school game the same night in Tulsa, in which a 16-year-old waved a pistol, causing a stampede and ending the game before it was finished. Or the game on the same night in Locust Grove, also in Oklahoma, where a deputy took a gun from a teenager.

Or high school football games the same night in Abington, Pa., Waterloo, Iowa, or Goodyear, Ariz., where other teenagers were disarmed before they could harm anyone with the guns they brought with them.

A week earlier, four teenagers were charged for carrying three loaded Glock 9 millimeter pistols at a high school football game in Canal Winchester, Ohio.

"Why bring those to a football stadium?" Madison Township Police Chief Gary York asked. "Why do these kids have them to begin with?"

Such a mystery. Where on Earth do kids get these violent ideas? And where do they get all those guns?

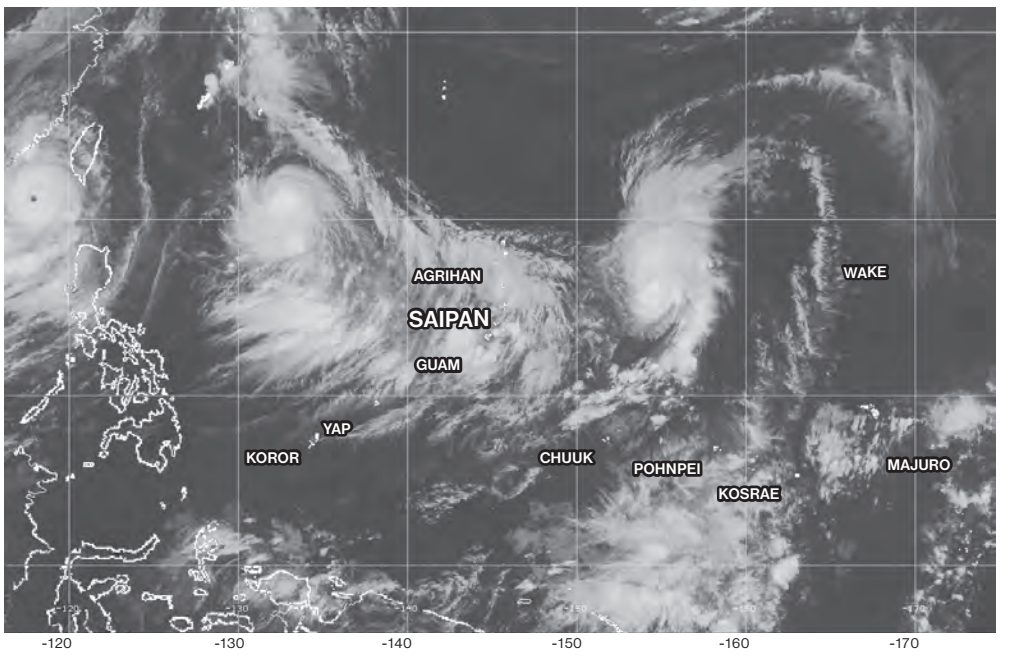
©2023 Los Angeles Times

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy
86° 80°	86° 80°	87° 80°	85° 80°	84° 82°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:45 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the monsoon trough continuing to move through the Marianas Waters. The Ipan buoy reveals an east-northeast swell of 3 to 4 feet. Computer wave model guidance suggests another swell from the west of 5 to 7 feet, resulting in combined seas of 6 to 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	86° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorm	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
New York	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°
Paris	Thunderstorm	72° / 55°
Busan	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	88° / 64°
Salem	Thunderstorm	88° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 57°
Seoul	Thunderstorm	82° / 68°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	90° / 72°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:56 AM	7:35 PM
Saturday	-	7:55 AM	8:17 PM
Sunday	-	8:53 AM	8:58 PM
Monday	-	9:50 AM	9:41 PM
Tuesday	-	10:48 AM	10:26 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
02:20 AM	Low Tide	0.92
07:47 AM	High Tide	2.23
2:42 PM	Low Tide	-0.07
9:03 PM	High Tide	2.11

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DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1 up to Sep 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR 111	7:05AM	9:05AM	7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily up to Sep 4
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily from Sep 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1 up to Sep 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR110	11:40PM	5:35AM+1	6
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Strengthening CNMI-Korea ties

As part of the administration's efforts to strengthen and expand its partnership and ties with South Korea, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang recently met with Lee Seo Young, the Korean consul general based in Hawaii, and In Kook Kim, head of the Korean Consulate in Guam. They were joined by Kim Bo Chyul, consular assistant, who is based in the CNMI, and Kyoung-chyan Joo, consul of the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in Guam.

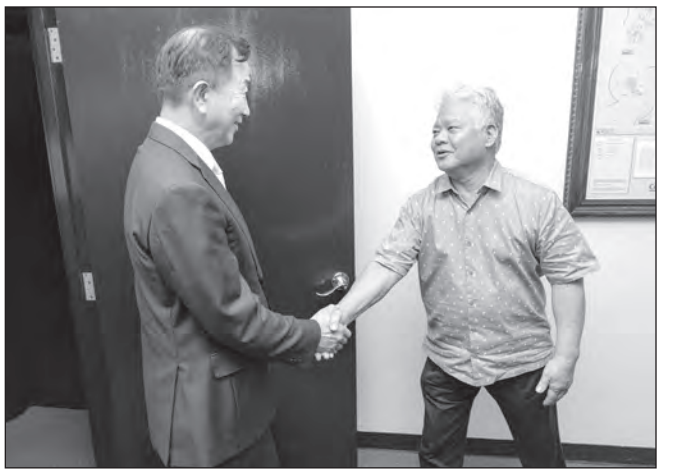
Both Young and Kim expressed their gratitude to Palacios and Apatang for their support of the local Korean population on Saipan and discussed strategies to bolster support for the Korean business community and Korean tourism to the CNMI.

From left, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Korean Consul General Lee Seo Young in Hawaii, Korean Consulate in Guam head In Kook Kim, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang shakes hands with Kim Bo Chyul, who is the Korean consular assistant based in the CNMI. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

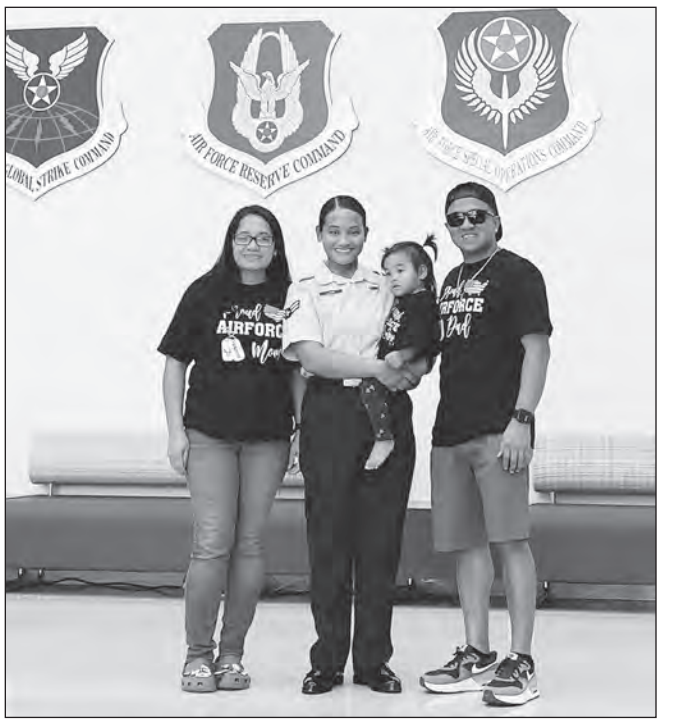
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios speaks with Korean Consul General Lee Seo Young. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios speaks while Korean Consul General Lee Seo Young; In Kook Kim; Kim Bo Chyul, Korean consular assistant in the CNMI; and Kyoung-chyan Joo, consul of the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in Guam, listen. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios shakes hands with Korean Consul General Lee Seo Young, who is based in Hawaii. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang shakes hands with Korean Consul General Lee Seo Young, who is based in Hawaii. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



BASIC TRAINING

Congratulations to AB Naomi Reen Borja Lizama, who graduated from the U.S. Air Force's Basic Military Training on Aug. 30, 2023, at Lackland Airforce Base in San Antonio, Texas. Lizama, who is the daughter of Kate Borja and Joey Mostales, now has the rank of Airman First Class. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FSS GRADUATION

Family Self-Sufficiency Program graduate Jocelyn T. Blas poses with U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development representatives, NMHC board of directors, and NMHC corporate director and deputy corporate director. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family Self-Sufficiency Program graduate Michael Q. Tomokane and his family pose with U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development representatives, NMHC board of directors, and NMHC corporate director and deputy corporate director. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Millions more would be entitled to OT pay under proposed rule

NEW YORK (AP)—The Biden administration proposed a new rule Wednesday that would make 3.6 million more U.S. workers eligible for overtime pay, the most generous such increase in decades.

The rule revives an Obama-era effort that faced pushback from business leaders and Republicans and was ultimately scuttled in court. Business groups Labor advocates and liberal lawmakers have pushed the Biden administration to take the fight back up, arguing that overtime protections have been sharply eroded over the decades by wage stagnation and inflation.

The proposed regulation, unveiled by the Department of Labor, would require employers to pay overtime to salaried workers who are in executive, administrative and professional roles but make less than $1,059 a week, or $55,068 a year for full-time employees. That salary threshold is up from $35,568 level that has been in place since 2019 when the Trump administration raised it from $23,660, in a more modest increase than President Barack Obama's earlier proposal.

The rule, which is subject to a public commentary period and wouldn't take effect for months, would have the biggest impact on retail, food, hospitality, manufacturing and other industries where many managerial employees meet the new threshold.

"I've heard from workers again and again about working long hours, for no extra pay, all while earning low salaries that don't come anywhere close to compensating them for their sacrifices," acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su said in a statement.

AP

Julie Su, acting Labor secretary, speaks during an impromptu appearance at the "Democracy for the People" tour, a race and democracy summit sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus, Wednesday, July 28, 2023, in Houston.

Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, almost all U.S. hourly workers are entitled to overtime pay after 40 hours a week, at no less than time-and-half their regular rates. But salaried workers who perform executive, administrative or professional roles are exempt from that requirement unless they earn below a certain level.

The left-leaning Economic Policy Institute has estimated that about 15% of full-time salaried workers are entitled to overtime pay under the Trump-era policy. The new rule would almost double that to nearly 30%, according to Labor Department figures.

That's still fewer than the more than 60% of salaried workers who were entitled to overtime pay in the 1970s, according to the institute. The overtime rule has been sporadically updated over the past decades, with the Trump increase being the first since 2004. The Labor Department's new rule attempts to change that pattern by adopting automatic increases to the salary threshold every three years.

Business leaders quickly criticized the new rule, saying it would add to labor challenges and saddle companies with new costs as they grapple with higher interest rates, inflation and economic uncertainty.

"The DOL's proposed rule would inject new regulatory burdens and compliance costs to an industry already reeling from workforce shortages and an onslaught of other unbalanced regulations," said Chris Netram, managing vice president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

David French, senior vice president of government relations of the National Retail Federation, said the automatic increases proposed in the rule ties the hands of future administration and exceeds the authority of the Labor Department.

The rule is less generous than the Obama-era regulation, which would have lifted the threshold to more than $47,000. It also falls short of the demands of some liberal lawmakers and unions for an even higher salary threshold than the proposed $55,068.

But labor advocates praised the rule as positive step.

"It's decades overdue, and it's a really important step," said Economic Policy Institute President Heidi Shierholz, who was the chief economist at the Labor Department when the Obama administration tried to enact its overtime rule.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler called the measure a "victory for the working people." She said employers that don't want to pay overtime "instead could take the high road and hire additional staff or promote workers from part-time to full-time status."

The new rule would extend overtime eligibility to some 300,000 more manufacturing workers and a similar number of retail workers. Some 180,000 hospitality and leisure workers and 600,000 health and social service workers would also be newly covered.

Under the rule, 27% of salaried workers would be entitled to overtime pay because they make less than the threshold, according to the Labor Department. A smaller number of workers would become newly eligible because of a change to a rule that excludes the highest paid salaried workers from overtime benefits even if they don't perform administrative, professional or executive duties. The Labor Department proposed raising that salary threshold from $107,432 to $143,988.

In its proposal, the Labor Department said it tried to find a balance that would address one of the concerns raised in legal challenges to the Obama-era policy: that the threshold was so high that it sidelined the so-called "duties" test, which determines whether salaried workers are entitled to overtime pay based on the work they perform.

Tesla allowing no-hands driving for longer periods

DETROIT (AP)—Tesla is allowing some drivers to use its Autopilot driver-assist system for extended periods without making them put their hands on the steering wheel, a development that has drawn concern from U.S. safety regulators.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has ordered Tesla to tell the agency how many vehicles have received a software update making that possible and it's seeking more information on what the electric vehicle maker's plans are for wider distribution.

"NHTSA is concerned that this feature was introduced to consumer vehicles, and now that the existence of this feature is known to the public, more drivers may attempt to activate it," John Donaldson, the agency's acting chief counsel, wrote in a July 26 letter to Tesla that was posted on the agency's website. "The resulting relaxation of controls designed to ensure that the driver remain engaged in the dynamic driving task could lead to greater driver inattention and failure of the driver to properly supervise Autopilot."

A message was left early Wednesday seeking comment from Tesla. "If you haven't tried Tesla Autopilot, you don't know how awesome it is," Tesla CEO Elon Musk wrote Wednesday on X, formerly Twitter.

The government has been investigating Autopilot for crashing into emergency vehicles parked on freeways, as well as hitting motorcycles and crossing tractor-trailers. It opened a formal probe in 2021 and since 2016 has sent investigators to 35 Tesla crashes that may involve partially automated driving systems. At least 17 people have died.

Tesla says Autopilot and a more sophisticated "Full Self-Driving" system cannot drive themselves and that drivers must be ready to intervene at all times. Autopilot generally can keep a car in its lane and a distance away from objects in front of it.

GRMC MRI not working due to typhoon damage

» Hospital anticipates 3- to 6-month timeframe for machine's reparation/ replacement

DEDEDO, Guam—The Guam Regional Medical City said yesterday that its magnetic resonance imaging scan, a machine used to examine the body's organs, tissues, and skeletal system, is currently out of commission due to the damage it sustained from Typhoon Mawar.

The hospital is exploring options for repair or total replacement of the MRI scan, which may be completed as early as November 2023. GRMC will provide updates accordingly.

At this time, GRMC advises patients to seek alternative clinics for MRI services. ***(PR)***

Weekend travelers hoping to enjoy one last summer fling should expect lots of company

DALLAS (AP)—By some measures, air travelers have enjoyed a less stressful summer than last year, but canceled flights remain elevated as airlines face their last big test of the prime vacation season: Labor Day weekend.

The Federal Aviation Administration predicts that this will be the third busiest holiday weekend of the year so far, behind only the Juneteenth weekend, which included Father's Day, and the Presidents Day break.

Hurricane Idalia should be heading away from the Atlantic Coast as most holiday revelers hop in cars or head to the airport. Airlines canceled several dozen flights in Florida and Georgia scheduled for Thursday but very few for Friday, according to tracking service FlightAware. Tampa International Airport said it would resume normal operations including departing flights early Thursday.

Travelers can check conditions where they are going on the FAA website.

Thursday figures to be the busiest day in U.S. airspace, with 52,203 flights scheduled, followed by 49,111 flights on Friday, according to the FAA. After a lull on Saturday and Sunday, flights are scheduled to pick back up Monday and Tuesday. The numbers include airline, military and some private flights.

The Transportation Security Administration expects to screen more than 14 million passengers from Friday through Wednesday, up nearly 11% over the same weekend last year.

AAA said bookings for domestic travel—flights, hotels, rental cars, and cruises—are running 4% higher than Labor Day last year. The auto club and insurance seller said international bookings are up a staggering 44% now that COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, with the top destinations being Vancouver, Rome, London, Dublin, and Paris.

Gasoline prices are similar to last year. The nationwide average was $3.83 a gallon on Wednesday, a penny less than a year ago, AAA reported.

On many planes this weekend, every seat is expected to be filled, capping a busy summer.

American Airlines expects to carry nearly 3.5 million passengers on about 32,000 flights between Thursday and next Tuesday. United Airlines is predicting its biggest Labor Day weekend ever, with nearly 2.8 million passengers in that same six-day stretch.

TSA figures show that the number of travelers going through U.S. airport checkpoints in August is 2% higher than in August 2019, before the pandemic.

The good news for travelers is that the rate of canceled flights is down about 19% from last summer, according to data from tracking service FlightAware. Still, the 1.8% cancellation rate since June 1 is a tick higher than during the same period in 2019, and flights delays are even more common than last summer.

Nation

Hurricane Idalia hits Florida with 125 mph winds, floods

PERRY, Fla. (AP)—Hurricane Idalia tore into Florida at the speed of a fast-moving train Wednesday, splitting trees in half, ripping roofs off hotels and turning small cars into boats before sweeping into Georgia and South Carolina as a still-powerful storm that flooded roadways and sent residents running for higher ground.

"All hell broke loose," said Belond Thomas of Perry, a mill town located just inland from the Big Bend region where Idalia came ashore.

Thomas fled with her family and some friends to a motel, thinking it would be safer than riding out the storm at home. But as Idalia's eye passed over about 8:30 a.m., a loud whistling noise pierced the air and the high winds ripped the building's roof off, sending debris down on her pregnant daughter, who was lying in bed. Fortunately, she was not injured.

"It was frightening," Thomas said. "Things were just going so fast. ... Everything was spinning."

Daniel Dickert wades through water in front of his home where the Steinhatchee River overflowed on Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023, in Steinhatchee, Fla., after the arrival of Hurricane Idalia. AP

After coming ashore, Idalia made landfall near Keaton Beach at 7:45 a.m. as a high-end Category 3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds near 125 mph (205 kph). The system remained a hurricane as it crossed into Georgia with top winds of 90 mph (150 kph). It weakened to a tropical storm by late Wednesday afternoon, and its winds had dropped to 60 mph (96 kph) by Wednesday night.

As the eye moved inland, high winds shredded signs, blew off roofs, sent sheet metal flying and snapped tall trees. One person was killed in Georgia. No hurricane-related deaths were officially confirmed in Florida, but the Florida Highway Patrol reported two people dying in separate weather-related crashes just hours before Idalia made landfall.

The storm brought strong winds to Savannah, Georgia, Wednesday evening as it made its way toward the Carolinas. It was forecast to move near or along the coast of South Carolina through Wednesday night and then just off the coast of North Carolina on Thursday before heading out into the Atlantic Ocean.

Idalia spawned a tornado that briefly touched down in the Charleston, South Carolina, suburb of Goose Creek, the National Weather Service said. The winds sent a car flying and flipped it over, according to authorities and eyewitness video. Two people received minor injuries.

Along South Carolina's coast, North Myrtle Beach, Garden City, and Edisto Island all reported ocean water flowing over sand dunes and spilling onto beachfront streets Wednesday evening. In Charleston, storm surge from Idalia topped the seawall that protects the downtown, sending ankle-deep ocean water into the streets and neighborhoods where horse-drawn carriages pass million-dollar homes and the famous open-air market.

Preliminary data showed the Wednesday evening high tide reached just over 9.2 feet (2.8 meters), more than 3 feet (0.9 meters) above normal and the fifth-highest reading in Charleston Harbor since records were first kept in 1899.

Florida had feared the worst while still recovering from last year's Hurricane Ian, which hit the heavily populated Fort Myers area, leaving 149 dead in the state. Unlike that storm, Idalia blew into a very lightly inhabited area known as Florida's "nature coast," one of the state's most rural regions that lies far from crowded metropolises or busy tourist areas and features millions of acres of undeveloped land.

That doesn't mean that it didn't do major damage. Rushing water covered streets near the coast, unmoored small boats and nearly a half-million customers in Florida and Georgia lost power. In Perry, the wind blew out store windows, tore siding off buildings and overturned a gas station canopy. Heavy rains partially flooded Interstate 275 in Tampa and wind toppled power lines onto the northbound side of Interstate 75 just south of Valdosta, Georgia.

Less than 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of where Idalia made landfall, businesses, boat docks and homes in Steinhatchee, Florida, were swallowed up by water surging in from Deadman's Bay. Police officers blocked traffic into the coastal community of more than 500 residents known for fishing and foresting industries.

State officials, 5,500 National Guardsman and rescue crews were in search-and-recovery mode, inspecting bridges, clearing toppled trees and looking for anyone in distress.

Because of the remoteness of the Big Bend area, search teams may need more time to complete their work compared with past hurricanes in more urban areas, said Kevin Guthrie, director of the Florida Department of Emergency Management.

"You may have two houses on a 5-mile (8-kilometer) road so it's going to take some time," Guthries said.

The National Weather Service in Tallahassee called Idalia "an unprecedented event" since no major hurricanes on record have ever passed through the bay abutting the Big Bend.

ACROSS THE NATION

Trump dismissive as New York attorney general accuses him of inflating his net worth by $2 billion

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump defended his real estate empire and his presidency in a face-to-face clash with the New York attorney general suing him for fraud, testifying at a closed-door grilling in April that his company is flush with cash—and claiming he saved "millions of lives" by deterring nuclear war when he was president. Trump, in testimony made public Wednesday, said it was a "terrible thing" that Attorney General Letitia James was suing him over claims he made on annual financial statements about his net worth and the value of his skyscrapers, golf courses and other assets. James said evidence shows Trump fraudulently inflated his net worth by up to 39%, or more than $2 billion, in some years.

Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell appears to freeze up again, this time at a Kentucky event

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell appeared to briefly freeze up and was unable to answer a question from a reporter at an event in Kentucky on Wednesday, weeks after he had a similar episode in Washington.vAs seen on video from a local news station, the 81-year-old McConnell was asked whether he would run for reelection in 2026. The senator asked the reporter to repeat the question before trailing off and staring straight ahead for about 10 seconds. An aide standing at the front of the room with McConnell then asked him whether he heard the question and repeated it to him. When McConnell did not answer, the aide announced to the room that "we're going to need a minute," and McConnell continued to stare ahead. In all, he was silent for around 30 seconds.

Bodies of 3 US Marines killed in Australian aircraft crash retrieved from crash site

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The bodies of three U.S. Marines killed in a tiltrotor aircraft crash during a training exercise in Australia were retrieved from the crash scene while another Marine remained in critical condition, the Marine Corps said Tuesday. Those killed were from Illinois, Virginia and Colorado. The Marine V-22B Osprey with 23 Marines on board crashed Sunday in tropical forest on Melville Island while taking part in Exercise Predators Run, a drill that includes the militaries of Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and East Timor.

West Point time capsule that appeared to contain nothing more than silt yields centuries-old coins

A nearly 200-year-old West Point time capsule that appeared to yield little more than dust when it was opened during a disappointing livestream contained hidden treasure after all, the U.S. Military Academy said Wednesday. It was just more hidden than expected. The lead box believed to have been placed by cadets in the base of a monument actually contained six silver American coins dating from 1795 to 1828 and a commemorative medal, West Point said in a news release. All were discovered in the sediment of the box, which at Monday's ceremonial opening at the New York academy appeared to be its only contents. "When I first found these, I thought, man, you know, it would have been great to have found these on stage," said West Point archeologist Paul Hudson, who after the event, took the box back to his lab and began carefully sifting through the silt with a small wooden pick and brush. ***(AP)***

Top prosecutors back compensation for those sickened by US nuclear weapons testing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez and 13 other top prosecutors from around the U.S. are throwing their support behind efforts to compensate people sickened by exposure to radiation during nuclear weapons testing. The Democratic officials sent a letter Wednesday to congressional leaders, saying "it's time for the federal government to give back to those who sacrificed so much." The letter refers to the estimated half a million people who lived within a 150-mile (240-kilometer) radius of the Trinity Test site in southern New Mexico, where the world's first atomic bomb was detonated in 1945. It also pointed to thousands of people in Idaho, Colorado, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Montana and Guam who currently are not eligible under the existing compensation program.

Asia

North Korea says it simulated nuclear attacks on South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Thursday its latest missile launches simulated "scorched earth" nuclear strikes on South Korea and that it's also been rehearsing an occupation of its rivals' territory in the event of conflict.

Pyongyang has previously tested nuclear-capable missiles and described how it would use them in potential wars with South Korea and the U.S. But the North's disclosure of detailed war plans reaffirmed its aggressive nuclear doctrine to intimidate its opponents, as it escalates its protest of the ongoing South Korean-U.S. military exercises that it views as a major security threat, observers say.

North Korea's military said it fired two tactical ballistic missiles from the capital on Wednesday night to practice "scorched earth strikes" at major command centers and operational airfields in South Korea, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

The North's military said the missiles carried out their simulated strikes through air bursts, suggesting it confirmed the explosions of dummy warheads at a set altitude.

North Korea said its missile tests were response to the United States' flyover of long-range B-1B bombers for a joint aerial training with South Korea earlier Wednesday as part of the allies' field exercises.

"(The aerial drill) is a serious threat to (North Korea) as it was just pursuant to the scenario for a preemptive nuclear strike at" North Korea, the Korean People's Army general staff said. "The KPA will never overlook the rash acts of the U.S. forces and the (South Korean) military gangsters."

The missile launches Wednesday were the latest in the North's barrage of weapons tests since last year.

According to South Korean and Japanese assessments, the two short-range missiles travelled a distance of 360-400 kilometers (225-250 miles) at the maximum altitude of 50 kilometers (30 miles) before landing in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff called the launches "a grave provocation" that threatens international peace and violates U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban any ballistic launches by North Korea. The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the U.S. commitment to the defense of South Korea and Japan remains "ironclad."

South Korean and Japanese authorities said their warplanes conducted combined aerial drills with U.S. B-1B bombers respectively on Wednesday. South Korea's Defense Ministry said that Wednesday's B-1B deployment is the 10th flyover by U.S. bombers on the Korean Peninsula this year.

North Korea is extremely sensitive to the deployment of U.S. B-1B bombers, which can carry a huge number of conventional weapons. The North describes the bombers as "nuclear strategic" although the planes were switched to conventional weaponry in the 1990s.

On Aug. 21, the U.S. and South Korean militaries kicked off their summer Ulchi Freedom Shield computer-simulated command post exercise. During this year's training, slated to end later Thursday, the allies have included more than 30 kinds of field exercises, such as Wednesday's joint aerial exercise involving the B-1B aircraft.

North Korea calls major U.S.-involved military drills on and near the Korean Peninsula preparation for invasion.

KCNA said Kim on Tuesday visited an army post where his military has been holding command post drills in response to the South Korean-U.S. military training. It said the drills are aimed at practicing procedures for "occupying the whole territory of the southern half" of the Korean Peninsula in the event of war.

Kim underscored the need to "deal a heavy blow at the enemy's war potential and war command center and blinding their means of command communication at the initial stage of operation." Kim also detailed tasks to acquire an ability to launch "simultaneous super-intense strikes" at key enemy military targets and other sites whose destruction can cause social and economic chaos, according to KNCA.

The North's report showed it has operational plans to launch full-blown attacks on South Korea in the event of military clashes between the rivals to achieve Korean unification by force, said analyst Cheong Seong-Chang at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea. He said that North Korea plots to conduct nuclear and EMP (electromagnetic pulse) attacks at the early stage of war.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said later Thursday it strongly condemns North Korea for openly revealing its intent to attack the South. It warned North Korea will only face "an overwhelming response" by South Korea, the U.S. and Japan if it continues its provocation and military threats.

The ministry said it was North Korean state media's first report on command post drills involving the whole military since Kim took power in late 2011.

North Korea has openly threatened to use its nuclear weapons first in potential conflicts with South Korea and the U.S. since it last year adopted a new law that authorized the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in a broad range of situations.

Kim has been pushing hard to expand and modernize his weapons arsenals. Its second attempt at launching a spy satellite failed last week, but it plans a third attempt in October.

Foreign experts say Kim eventually wants to use his enlarged weapons arsenals to force the U.S. to make concessions when diplomacy resumes.

AP

This combination of photos provided by the North Korean government shows what it says a tactical nuclear strike drill in Pyongyang, North Korea Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023.

In Loving Memory of
†ETHAN FRANKLIN HENRICK BABAUTA
ALSO KNOWN AS KUNI/ KUNI BOY
Born on June 02, 1999 & called to eternal rest in Oahu, Hawaii on August 15, 2023 at the age of 24
In his new life he will be reunited with Adopted Parents/Grandparents †Francisco F. & †Justina H. Babauta
He will live forever in the hearts of his:
Mother: Myrna Lynn H. Babauta (Edgar)
Brother: Devon Joel B. Pangelinan (Tiava)
Mother at heart: Maylynn H. Babauta (Kody Angel)
Siblings: Eldin N. Maratita (Jesusa) (Eldin Jr., Tammy Briann, John David & Elizha Joydeen)
Jayda H. Babauta (Jasmine Ha'ane, Frankie Joe)
Biological Father: Jonathan C. Delos Santos (Liana Jewel, Jonathan Jerome, Matthew Jerard & Timothy John)
Paternal Grandparents:
Joaquin P. & Maria C. Delos Santos
Baptismal Godparents:
Fatima Marie L. Manaloto
John Paul P. Sablan
Confirmation Godfather: Raymond U. Palacios
GodDaughter: Aleyna Jane Basa Mendiola
He will be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, cousins, nieces, nephews, fellow baseball team mates, EK Fernandez co-workers, and friends.
Daily mass is being prayed at St. Jude Church @6:00pm.
On September 07, 2023, our beloved †Ethan will be escorted at 7:40am from Borja Funeral Home to St. Jude Church. Responso and Rosary will be at 8:00am followed by public viewing and mass at 10:00am. After the mass, our beloved †Ethan will be escorted back to Borja Funeral Home for a private family setting.
Thank you & Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Myrna Lynn H. Babauta,
Devon Joel & Family.

Fire kills 15 in a Philippine factory

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A fire killed 15 people Thursday in a small apparel factory in a Philippine residential area, where firefighters were delayed by flooding, traffic and a wrong address, a fire protection official.

Most of the victims appeared to be factory workers and carpenters who were sleeping in rooms when the fire broke out Thursday morning.

Some were found dead on an aisle outside the rooms and the factory owner and his child were among the dead, Nahum Tarroza of the Bureau of Fire Protection said.

Three people survived with injuries by jumping off the second floor of the two-story factory in panic, Tarroza said. The three were taken to a hospital.

The firefighters arrived in about 14 minutes after rain and wind cause flooding and traffic jams and a wrong address was given to firefighters, Tarroza said.

The fire in the Pleasant View residential enclave in Tandang Sora village in suburban Quezon city was extinguished in two hours. An investigation was looking into the cause.

The factory stored combustible materials and textile used in making apparel and also printed designs on shirts used for business promotions, village officials said.

World

3 arrested in Dominican Republic after blast that killed 34

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—Three people were arrested Wednesday in the Dominican Republic as part of an ongoing investigation into a powerful explosion at a plastics company that killed at least 34 people earlier this month.

Those arrested include the owner of the company and his wife, a government official who was not authorized to speak to the media told The Associated Press.

The explosion was caused by an accumulation of highly flammable gases that could have been generated by the plastics and organic peroxide material stored at the company, according to a preliminary report by the firefighting department obtained by the AP.

The company, Vidal Plast, recycles, sells and buys plastic material.

Authorities previously said they have evidence that there was a fire at the business in March caused by a spark and a chemical substance, and that the company did not take any measures "despite knowing the high risk of its operations."

Norberto Rondón, the attorney of those arrested, told reporters Wednesday that the company had been shuttered since May and accused the country's firefighting department of issuing a preliminary report of "lies and half-truths."

It is the first time someone is arrested in the case, with authorities still identifying victims, while another 60 people are recovering from injuries.

The Aug. 14 explosion occurred in a bustling commercial center in the city of San Cristobal, just west of the capital, Santo Domingo. It took firefighters three days to extinguish the blaze.

Mutineers in Gabon appoint military leader after detaining president

This video grab shows coup supporters cheering police officers in Libreville, Gabon, Wednesday Aug. 30, 2023. AP

LIBREVILLE, Gabon (AP)—Mutinous soldiers in Gabon proclaimed their republican guard chief as the country's leader Wednesday after placing the just-reelected President Ali Bongo Ondimba under house arrest, alleging betrayal and massive embezzlement during his long-time rule over the oil-rich Central African nation.

The coup leaders said in an announcement on Gabon's state TV that Gen. Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema had been "unanimously" designated president of a transitional committee to lead the country. Oligui is a cousin of Bongo, who earlier Wednesday had been declared the winner of the country's latest presidential election following 55 years of rule by him and his late father.

In a video from detention in his residence, Bongo called on people to "make noise" to support him. But the crowds who took to the streets of the capital instead celebrated the coup against a dynasty accused of getting rich on the country's resource wealth while many of its citizens struggle.

"Thank you, army. Finally, we've been waiting a long time for this moment," said Yollande Okomo, standing in front of republican guard members who had helped stage the takeover.

Coup leaders said there would be a curfew from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. local time but that people would be allowed to move about freely during the day on Thursday.

"The president of the transition insists on the need to maintain calm and serenity in our beautiful country ... At the dawn of a new era, we will guarantee the peace, stability and dignity of our beloved Gabon," Lt. Col. Ulrich Manfoumbi said on state TV Wednesday.

Oligui, the new military leader, used to be the bodyguard of Bongo's father, the late President Omar Bongo, said Desire Ename a journalist with Echos du Nord, a local media outlet. Oligui also was head of the secret service in 2019 before becoming head of the republican guard.

Ali Bongo Ondimba, 64, has served two terms since coming to power in 2009 after the death of his father, who ruled the country for 41 years, and there has been widespread discontent with his reign. Another group of mutinous soldiers attempted a coup in 2019 but was quickly overpowered.

The former French colony is a member of OPEC, but its oil wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few—and nearly 40% of Gabonese aged 15 to 24 were out of work in 2020, according to the World Bank. Its oil export revenue was $6 billion in 2022, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

About 150 migrants rescued from two boats off western Greece and in the Aegean Sea

Migrants disembark from a Greek coast vessel after a rescue operation, at the port of Mytilene, on the northeastern Aegean Sea island of Lesbos, Greece, Monday, Aug. 28, 2023. AP

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—About 150 migrants were rescued from overloaded sailboats provided by smugglers in two separate incidents Wednesday far off a western Greek island and off a Cycladic island near the Greek capital, the coast guard said.

In the first case, a group of 76 people was rescued from a yacht in distress 64 nautical miles (74 miles, 118 kilometers) southwest of the Ionian Sea island of Zakynthos in western Greece, a coast guard statement said. All were taken onto a passing Egyptian-flagged cargo ship, and there were no reports of anybody missing.

It was not immediately clear where the sailboat had set out from, but the area lies on the route often used by smuggling vessels carrying migrants from Turkey or northern Africa to Italy.

In the second incident, about 80 people were safely evacuated from a sailboat off Kythnos island, one of the Cyclades to the southeast of Athens. The coast guard said all were in good health and were taken to the port of Kythnos.

Also Wednesday, in two separate incidents the Greek coast guard picked up 29 migrants from boats off islands near Turkey in the eastern Aegean Sea. On Tuesday, another 90 people were rescued in four separate incidents in the eastern Aegean.

Greece has seen an increase in the arrival of smuggling boats bringing migrants into the country over the last two months, mainly small dinghies heading to eastern Aegean islands from the nearby Turkish coast.

For decades, the country has been a preferred entry point into the European Union for people fleeing conflict or poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia and hoping for a better life in Europe.

More than 17,300 people have reached Greece by land and sea so far this year, according to the latest United Nations figures. About 13,500 of them arrived by sea with 5,500 reaching Lesbos alone.

Arrivals make up more than a tenth of this year's total successful Mediterranean crossings, most of which—about 113,000—were to Italy. Arrivals in Greece for the whole of 2022 totaled 19,000.

In June, a battered fishing trawler heading from Libya to Italy with an estimated 500-750 people on board sank in international waters off southwestern Greece. Only 104 survivors were found, and Greek authorities were heavily criticized for failing to evacuate the vessel in time.

The government has attributed the rise in migrant crossings since then to better summer weather, unrest in Africa and smugglers taking advantage of an increase in Aegean small boat traffic during the tourist season.

Guatemala's Congress refuses to recognize president-elect's party

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Guatemala's Congress, which is controlled by the currently governing party, on Wednesday refused to recognize the seven lawmakers from the Seed Movement party of President-elect Bernardo Arévalo, following the suspension of his party earlier this week.

Lawmakers declared their Seed Movement colleagues independents in the latest move against the party since Arévalo's landslide win Aug. 20. Prosecutors have accused the Seed Movement of wrongdoing in gathering signatures for the party's registration years earlier. The case was announced in July after Arévalo won a surprise place in the presidential runoff against former first lady Sandra Torres.

Anti-corruption prosecutor Rafael Curruchiche officially advised the Congress of the party's suspension despite pending court appeals. The U.S. government has sanctioned Curruchiche for allegedly obstructing corruption investigations.

Wednesday was the Congress' first session after a two-month recess. Arévalo is among the seven lawmakers declared independents and he was present at the session Wednesday.

At a news conference later, the Seed Movement said it was the victim of a government conspiracy and would seek an injunction blocking Congress' move. It said it would also file a complaint with the legislature's leaders.

"In recent days we have witnessed the systematic articulation of actions aimed at the disappearance of the Seed Movement, at the same time cancelling the support of the Guatemalan people at the ballot box who expressed an emphatic 'no' to corruption," said party lawmaker Samuel Pérez.

Seed Movement legislator Román Castellanos said the impact is that Seed Movement lawmakers cannot hold leadership positions in the Congress. They also lose the presidency of the sole congressional committee they held, he said.

The body acted differently in the case of another party, the National Change Union, months earlier when its party status was cancelled by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. The party allied with the governing party of President Alejandro Giammattei did not have its lawmakers declared independents or stripped of their committee leadership positions.

Arévalo's win is worrying to entrenched powers because he has promised to re-start the campaign against corruption.

Off The Wall

Tomatina Party sees streets awash in red

AP

A woman reacts during the annual tomato fight fiesta called "Tomatina" in the village of Bunol near Valencia, Spain, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023.

BUÑOL, Spain (AP)—Some 15,000 people, including many tourists, pasted each other with tomatoes Wednesday as Spain's annual "Tomatina" street battle took place in the eastern town of Buñol.

Workers on trucks tipped 120 tons of overripe tomatoes into the main street of the town for participants to throw.

The street fight leaves both the street, its houses and participants drenched in red pulp.

Tickets for the festival start at 12 euros ($13).

The town hoses down the area and the revelers shower off within minutes of the hourlong noon battle finishing.

The festival, held on the last Wednesday of August, was inspired by a food fight between local children in 1945 in the town, located in a tomato-producing region.

Media attention in the 1980s turned it into a national and international event, drawing participants from every corner of the world.

Participants use swimming goggles to protect their eyes and usually dress in T-shirts and shorts.

The party is ranked by Spain as an international tourism attraction.

Neurosurgeon investigating patient's mystery symptoms plucks a worm from woman's brain

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A neurosurgeon investigating a woman's mystery symptoms in an Australian hospital says she plucked a wriggling worm from the patient's brain.

Surgeon Hari Priya Bandi was performing a biopsy through a hole in the 64-year-old patient's skull at Canberra Hospital last year when she used forceps to pull out the parasite, which measured 8 centimeters, or 3 inches.

"I just thought: 'What is that? It doesn't make any sense. But it's alive and moving,'" Bandi was quoted Tuesday in The Canberra Times newspaper.

"It continued to move with vigor. We all felt a bit sick," Bandi added of her operating team.

The creature was the larva of an Australian native roundworm not previously known to be a human parasite, named Ophidascaris robertsi. The worms are commonly found in carpet pythons.

Bandi and Canberra infectious diseases physician Sanjaya Senanayake are authors of an article about the extraordinary medical case published in the latest edition of the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Senanayake said he was on duty at the hospital in June last year when the worm was found.

"I got a call saying: 'We've got a patient with an infection problem. We've just removed a live worm from this patient's brain,'" Senanayake said.

The woman had been admitted to the hospital after experiencing forgetfulness and worsening depression over three months. Scans showed changes in her brain.

A year earlier, she had been admitted to her local hospital in southeast New South Wales state with symptoms including abdominal pain, diarrhea, a dry cough and night sweats.

Senanayake said the brain biopsy was expected to reveal a cancer or an abscess.

Thief steals former governor's SUV as he hosts a radio show

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—Former North Dakota Gov. Ed Schafer learned a lesson about his car keys after his vehicle was stolen as he hosted a Fargo radio show.

Schafer was guest hosting KFGO's "News and Views" program Friday morning when police called the station to ask if he owned a 2020 GMC Yukon, the station reported. It turns out that the SUV had been stolen out of the station's parking lot. The thief apparently drove it to a probation office and surrendered to authorities, Schafer said.

The vehicle has a push-button start feature and requires a key fob to be in the vehicle before it can be operated. But Schafer had left a spare fob inside, enabling the thief to start it up and drive off.

The former governor and U.S. agriculture secretary says he's been warned about being more careful.

"My wife for 31 years has said, 'Why don't you lock your car?'" Schafer said.

Science & Technology

India's lunar rover takes walk on moon's surface

NEW DELHI (AP)—A lunar rover slid down a ramp from the lander of India's spacecraft within hours of its historic touch-down near the moon's south pole, Indian space officials said Thursday, as the country celebrated its new scientific accomplishment.

"India took a walk on the moon," the state-run Indian Space Research Organization said, adding that the Chandrayan-3 Rover would conduct experiments over 14 days, including an analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface.

Residents of the world's most populous country had crowded around televisions in offices, shops, and restaurants on Wednesday and erupted into clapping, dancing, and exchanging of sweets when they saw the lander's smooth touch-down. It landed on uncharted territory that scientists believe could hold vital reserves of frozen water.

``India Goes Where No Nation's Gone Before,'' read Thursday's headline in The Times of India daily, while the Indian Express newspaper exclaimed, "The moon is Indian."

Ajay Bhargava, a New Delhi-based architect, said it was a great experience watching broadcasts of the landing, and that he felt it was the culmination of hard work by India's scientists over the years.

``Prime Minister Narendra Modi or any other politician should not take credit for this achievement," Bhargava said in a telephone interview.

Indian Space Research Organization Chairman S. Somnath said the lander had touched down close to the center of the 4.5-kilometer-wide (2.8-mile-wide) area that had been targeted for the landing. "It landed within 300 meters (985 feet) of that point," the Press Trust of India cited him as saying.

The rover was on the move, and working ``very well," Somnath said.

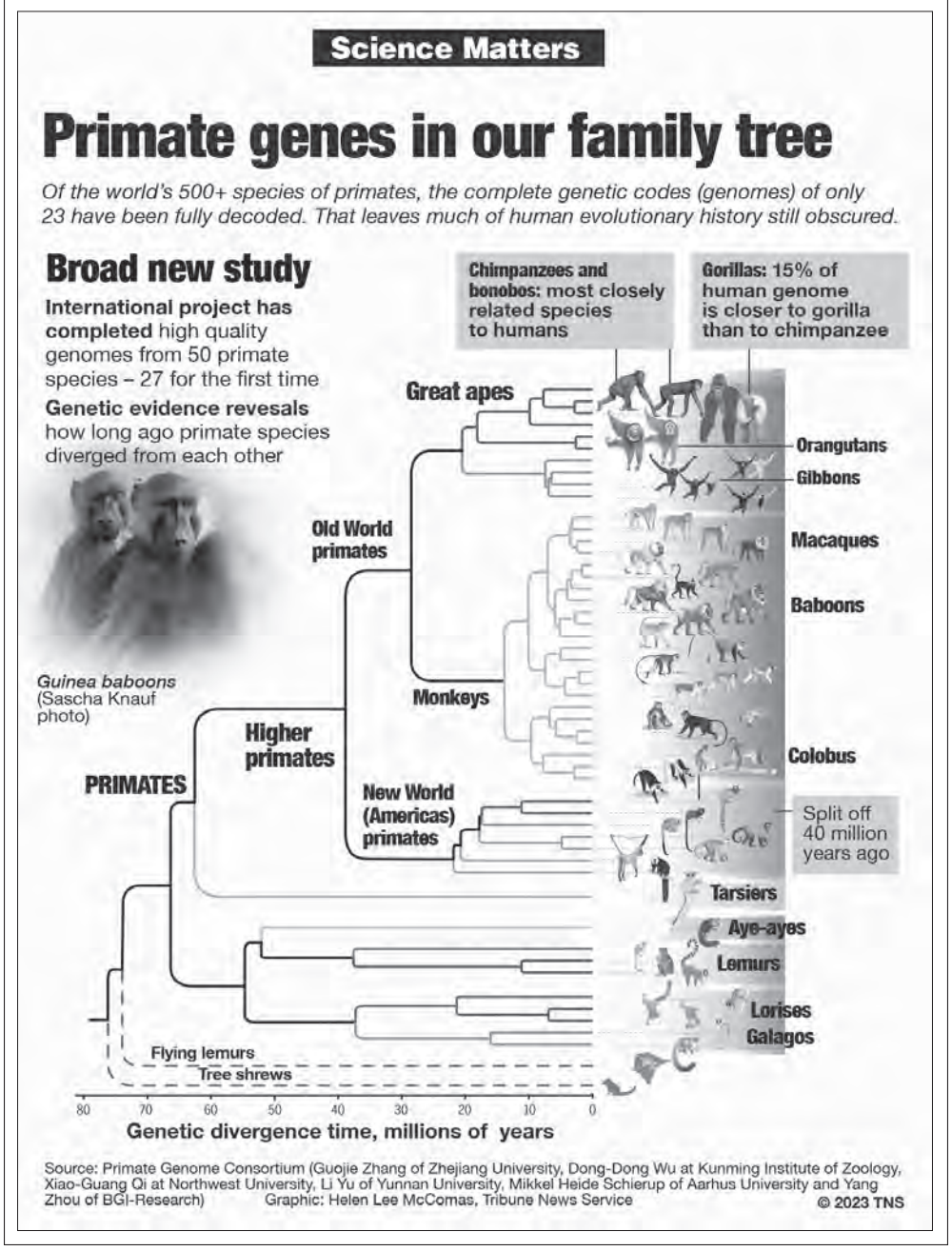
Somnath said there are two scientific instruments in the rover and three instruments on board the lander, and all of them have been switched on sequentially.

"They will study basically the mineral composition of the moon, as well as the atmosphere of the moon and the seismic activities there," he added.

After a failed attempt to land on the moon in 2019, India on Wednesday joined the United States, the Soviet Union and China as only the fourth country to achieve this milestone.

The successful mission showcases India's rising standing as a technology and space powerhouse and dovetails with the image that Modi is trying to project: an ascendant country asserting its place among the global elite.

The mission began more than a month ago at an estimated cost of $75 million. Somnath said that India would next attempt a manned lunar mission.


Science Matters
Primate genes in our family tree
Of the world's 500+ species of primates, the complete genetic codes (genomes) of only 23 have been fully decoded. That leaves much of human evolutionary history still obscured.
Broad new study
International project has completed high quality genomes from 50 primate species – 27 for the first time
Genetic evidence revesals how long ago primate species diverged from each other
Guinea baboons (Sascha Knauf photo)
Chimpanzees and bonobos: most closely related species to humans
Gorillas: 15% of human genome is closer to gorilla than to chimpanzee
Great apes
Orangutans
Gibbons
Old World primates
Macaques
Baboons
Monkeys
Higher primates
PRIMATES
New World (Americas) primates
Colobus
Split off 40 million years ago
Tarsiers
Aye-ayes
Lemurs
Lorises
Galagos
Flying lemurs
Tree shrews
80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0
Genetic divergence time, millions of years
Source: Primate Genome Consortium (Guojie Zhang of Zhejiang University, Dong-Dong Wu at Kunming Institute of Zoology, Xiao-Guang Qi at Northwest University, Li Yu of Yunnan University, Mikkel Heide Schierup of Aarhus University and Yang Zhou of BGI-Research)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
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Life & Style

Oher seeks 'The Blind Side' contract and payment information

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Lawyers for former NFL player Michael Oher are seeking his school records and information about contracts and payouts related to the film "The Blind Side" as part of his highly publicized effort to end a legal agreement between him and Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy.

Shelby County Probate Court issued three subpoenas Tuesday asking for information from Memphis Shelby County Schools, Alcon Entertainment, which produced the movie, and Creative Artists Agency, a prominent talent agent firm known as CAA.

The filings are part of Oher's attempts to end a conservatorship overseen by the Tuohys, who took in Oher while he was a high school football player in Memphis. Their story was the subject of the film "The Blind Side," which earned Sandra Bullock an Oscar for her portrayal of Leigh Anne Tuohy.

AP

Former NFL football player Michael Oher, whose story became the inspiration for the Oscar-nominated movie "The Blind Side," signs books at an event for his new memoir at a store in Baltimore, Monday, Aug. 21, 2023.

Oher, 37, filed a petition Aug. 14 in probate court accusing the Tuohys of lying to him by having him sign papers making them his conservators rather than his adoptive parents nearly two decades ago. Oher is asking for the conservatorship to be terminated, a full accounting of the money earned off his name and story to be done and to be paid what he is due, with interest.

He accused the couple of falsely representing themselves as his adoptive parents, saying he discovered in February the conservatorship agreed to in 2004 was not the arrangement he thought it was—and that it provided him no familial relationship to them. He claims the Tuohys have kept him in the dark about financial dealings related to his name, image and likeness during the 19-year life of the agreement.

The Tuohys have called the claims they enriched themselves at his expense outlandish, hurtful and absurd and part of a "shakedown" by Oher. Lawyers representing the couple also said the Tuohys would enter into a consent order to end the conservatorship they say Oher was aware of long before this year.

CNN names Mark Thompson as its new leader

NEW YORK (AP)—A former chief executive of the BBC and The New York Times who says he sees opportunity in times of disruption was chosen Wednesday to lead CNN, which has burned through two leaders and bled viewers over the past two years.

Thompson

Mark Thompson was appointed as CNN's new chair and CEO by the network's parent company, Warner Bros. Discovery. Thompson will replace Chris Licht, who was fired in June, and a four-person team that had been running CNN in the interim, when he takes over Oct. 9.

Thompson, who left the Times in 2020 after eight years as that company's president and CEO, is credited with helping the newspaper transition to a digital-first organization more dependent on paid subscribers than the collapsing advertising market that has doomed many newspapers.

The native of England, who was knighted by the British government this year, was director-general of the BBC from 2004 to 2012.

"I've long admired Mark's transformative leadership and his ability to inspire organizations to raise their own ambitions and sense of what's possible, and achieve it," David Zaslav, chief of Warner Bros. Discovery, said in a note to CNN staff.

Thompson, in his own note, said that television journalism is approaching peak disruption. CNN and other networks have suffered from people cutting off cable subscriptions, and the company has so far fumbled its attempt to establish a streaming service.

"We face pressure from every direction—structural, political, cultural, you name it," Thompson said. "Like many other media organizations, CNN has recently felt some of the uncertainty and heartache that comes with all of that. There's no magic wand I or anyone else can wield to make this disruption go away. But what I can say is that where others see threat, I see opportunity."

CBS honoring Bob Barker with prime-time special

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS is giving the late game show host Bob Barker a last run on television with a prime-time tribute special that will air on the network Thursday night.

Barker

"The Price is Right: A Tribute to Bob Barker," scheduled for 8 p.m. Eastern and Pacific, will be replayed Labor Day in the game show's regular daytime slot, which is 11 a.m. Eastern and 10 a.m. Pacific.

The smooth-talking host, who urged participants to "come on down" and play the enduring game that required them to guess the price of consumer goods, died at age 99 Saturday at his home in Los Angeles.

With his signature long, thin microphone, Barker commanded the show's stage from 1972 to 2007. His tribute will be hosted by Drew Carey, his replacement and still the show's host now.

The show of highlights from Barker's 50-year television career will feature clips from his first and last days on "The Price is Right." Barker hosted the game show "Truth or Consequences" before that.

It will illustrate Barker's ability to make the most out of every moment, said Margot Wain, senior vice president of daytime television at CBS.

Jesmyn Ward, James McBride among Kirkus Prizes nominees

NEW YORK (AP)—Novels by Jesmyn Ward and James McBride and story collections by Jamal Brinkley and Kelly Link are among the finalists Wednesday for the 10th annual Kirkus Prizes, for which winners in fiction, nonfiction and young reader's literature each receive $50,000.

Kirkus judges selected six books for each of the three categories, with winners to be announced Oct. 11. The awards are presented by the trade publication Kirkus Reviews.

Ward's slave narrative "Let Us Descend" and McBride's 20th century tale "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store" were nominated in fiction, along with Brinkley's "Witness," Link's "White Cat, Black Dog," the acclaimed Irish novelist Paul Murray's "The Bee Sting" and New Zealander Eleanor Catton's "Birnam Wood."

In nonfiction, finalists include Jennifer Homan's George Balanchine biography "Mr. B," Safiya Sinclair's memoir "How To Say Babylon" and Tania Branigan's "Red Memory: The Afterlives of China's Cultural Revolution." The other nonfiction nominees are Clancy Martin's "How Not To Kill Yourself: A Portrait of the Suicidal Mind," Héctor Tobar's "Our Migrant Souls: A Meditation on Race and the Meanings and Myths of 'Latino'" and Ilyon Woo's "Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey From Slavery to Freedom."

Insensitive comments push mom toward plastic surgery

DEAR ABBY: I had my daughter later in life. I was almost 41. I am no beauty queen, but now, 12 years later, I have been asked by two different people if I am my daughter's grandmother. It was so upsetting, I cried for weeks. I have always been self-conscious about my looks.

My daughter is now going to be a teenager. I don't want her future high school friends thinking I am her grandma, so I've been contemplating plastic surgery. My family insists I don't need it. They're calling me vain, foolish, selfish, etc. My husband is discouraging me because of the cost. (He's pretty frugal.)

Would it be selfish if it will make me feel better about myself? In the meantime, how do I handle any more "grandma" comments without punching someone in the nose?

NOT THAT OLD IN FLORIDA

DEAR NOT THAT OLD: In case you haven't noticed, an increasing number of women are having children in their 40s (and a few even older). If you are contemplating cosmetic surgery only because you have a young child, a cheaper and more effective way to deal with it would be to simply tell the truth, which is that she's your daughter.

While cosmetic surgery can make someone more confident about their looks, it is not the case for everyone. Your family should not be ridiculing you for wanting to explore the option. A licensed mental health professional can help you decide whether you need a surgical procedure or an attitude adjustment. If it's the former, schedule an appointment with a qualified surgeon to discuss your options.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently attended an engagement party at a restaurant for our son and his fiancee. The party was hosted by our son as a surprise for his fiancee. As an engagement gift to the couple, my husband and I, together with the mother of the bride-to-be and the bride's sisters, chipped in (with our son) to cover the cost of the party.

During the party, my husband's sister, an invited guest, took it upon herself to quietly pay the bill for the entire affair. We didn't find out until we went to settle the bill at the end of the night. She did not do it anonymously, and she was very pleased about the attention this garnered for her.

We were upset that she didn't ask us before she did this. We would have gladly accepted her kicking in SOME money toward the affair, or better yet, giving the money directly to the couple, but we were not happy that she commandeered our gift to our children the way she did.

When we approached her to discuss this, she became defensive and refused to see our side of the situation. Obviously, this isn't life or death, but what is your opinion? Was it proper for her to have done this etiquette-wise?

WONDERING IN THE EAST

DEAR WONDERING: In the Bible (Matthew 6:1) it is written, "Be careful not to do your good works in public in order to attract attention. If you do, your Father in Heaven will not reward you." (And neither, it seems, will your relatives here on Earth.)

"Lady bountiful" appears to be quite a handful. If her generosity was spurred by a compulsion to steal the spotlight, she managed it beautifully. Was it "proper etiquette-wise"? We both know it wasn't.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

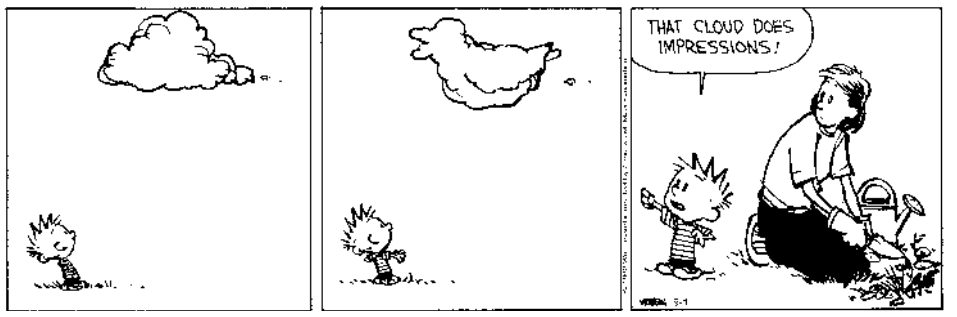
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

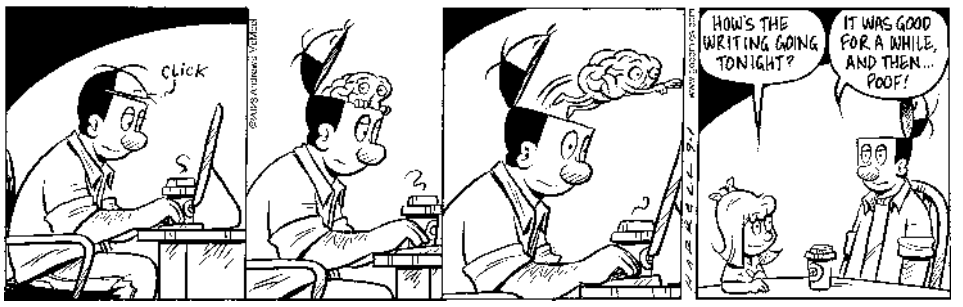


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

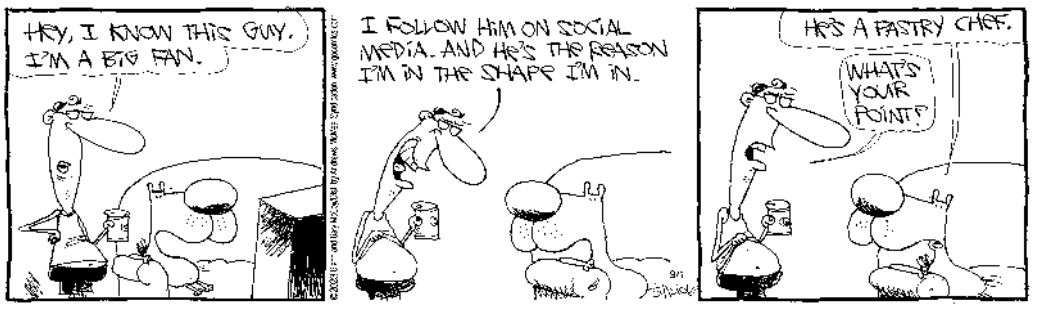
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HEY, I KNOW THIS GUY. I'M A BIG FAN.
I FOLLOW HIM ON SOCIAL MEDIA. AND HE'S THE REASON I'M IN THE SHAPE I'M IN.
HE'S A PASTRY CHEF.
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "You've got mail" co.
4 Juan's home
8 Pinnacle
12 Part of TNT
13 "... three men in —"
14 Cool veggie
15 25th U.S. president
17 Pundit's piece
18 Pop singer Easton
19 Navy address
21 "I do," for one
22 Quarterback Donovan
26 Resurrected
29 Menlo Park monogram
30 "Norma —"
31 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
32 Indian lentil dish
33 Put the kibosh on
34 Motorist's org.
35 Trendy
36 Agra's land
37 TV role for Flockhart
39 Swelled head
40 "Evita" role
41 Turned to mush
45 Old radio part
48 "Bridesmaids" actress Melissa
50 Gymnast Korbut
51 Earth orbiter
52 Calendar abbr.
53 Bump into
54 "— girl!"
55 Annex

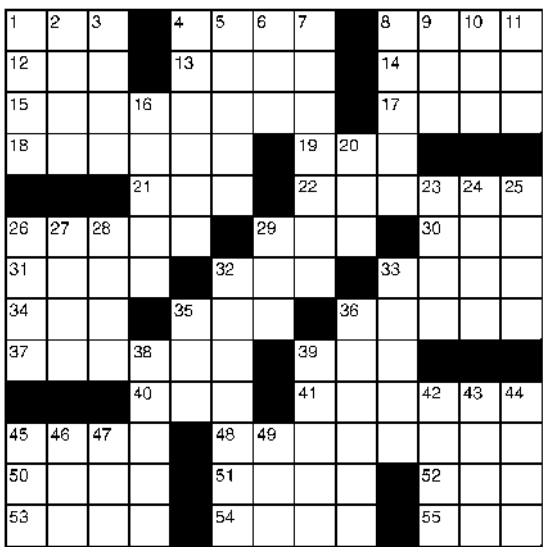
DOWN

1 $ dispensers
2 Symphonic gp.
3 Facebook action
4 Big gun
5 Attorney-—
6 Take to court
7 Very bad
8 Future oak
9 Young seal
10 Squeeze (out)
11 Deleted
16 "When will — learn?"
20 "Rocks"
23 Desertlike
24 Island near Java
25 Composer Bartok
26 Meander
27 Apple variety
28 Swedish car
29 Spigot
32 Pickle
33 Soup mix brand
35 "So there!"
36 Big lizard
38 Brilliance
39 Spaceship Earth locale
42 Jazz singer James
43 Barak of Israel
44 Turned blue?
45 — Pérignon
46 Land in la mer
47 Get older
49 Camp bed

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	A	S	H	■	F	U	L	L	■	Y	D	S
A	L	I	I	■	A	N	I	E	■	O	U	R
Y	O	U	D	E	C	I	D	E	■	U	S	A
S	U	B	D	U	E	■	■	H	A	H	I	S
■	■	■	F	R	■	S	U	S	H	I	■	■
B	R	Y	N	■	C	O	P	■	A	R	G	O
F	F	O	■	■	H	A	D	■	■	S	I	R
G	L	U	E	■	O	V	C	■	O	T	T	O
■	■	O	I	I	F	■	D	R	■	■	■	■
H	A	W	K	E	■	■	M	I	A	S	M	A
A	R	E	■	Y	O	U	R	E	T	T	E	R
M	U	M	■	T	A	T	A	■	F	R	S	T
S	T	E	■	E	K	E	S	■	D	O	S	E

Yesterday's answer 9-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zendaya, 27; Zoe Lister-Jones, 41; Gloria Estefan, 66; Lily Tomlin, 84.

Happy Birthday: Choose the path that excites and stimulates your mind. Pay attention to detail, and show passion in all that you pursue. Be inventive and disciplined enough to turn your ideas into something concrete. Improve what needs to be tweaked and protect what's already perfect. Make this your year to master your skills and reach for the stars. Walk away from temptation and place your trust and loyalty in yourself. Your numbers are 3, 14, 20, 24, 32, 36, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Put your adrenaline to good use and finish what you start. Don't leave yourself open to criticism because you neglected to follow your plans. Your appeal will get a boost if you act with kindness and authenticity. Romance looks promising. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Avoid costly ventures. Monitor your food and drink intake, and don't overspend trying to impress. You'll gain respect if you know when to decline and when to say yes. Your success depends on discipline and hard work, not buying favors. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Improve your living space. Comfort and convenience will ease stress and add flexibility to your daily routine. Surround yourself with people who support your efforts and want to make a difference as much as you do. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Share your thoughts and create a buzz that interests people with something to offer. Take advantage of an opportunity to learn from an expert. Don't give in to temptation or anyone who is condescending. Trust your instincts. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Pay attention to what's happening around you, and you'll gain insight into what to pursue and avoid. Concentrate on using your skills, knowledge and experience to outmaneuver anyone pushing you toward overindulgence or costly endeavors. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Tailor your day to suit your needs. Broaden your horizons; learn something new. Resist temptation and those using manipulative tactics. Concentrate on what's important to you, and stay close to those who love and respect you. Personal growth will lead to more significant opportunities. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be observant, see what's new and exciting in your neighborhood, and decide if you want to participate. Personal improvements that contribute to greater skills, appeal and opportunities will boost your confidence and offer insight into possibilities. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Refuse to let anyone jeopardize your chance to get ahead. Network, get into the conversation and tell others what interests you. The connections you make will lead to a long-overdue change. Don't let overindulgence be your downfall. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Trust your instincts. Improvements at home or to yourself are favored. Pay attention to the changes going on around you. Speak passionately about your plans, but don't exaggerate to get someone's attention. You'll gain ground if you move forward without assistance. Make romance a priority. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep a tally of how much you spend. Be honest with yourself and others regarding your feelings and your desire. The change will give you the boost you need to liven up your life and start something new. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make a point to save. Don't rely on hearsay regarding joint endeavors or expenses based on conjecture. Do your fact-finding and propose what you want to pursue. Avoid impatience. Concentrate on personal growth and romance. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Refuse to let anyone limit what you can do or say. Speak on your behalf and make decisions conducive to getting what you want. You have more opportunities than you realize. Partner only with those who share your concerns and your dreams. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are astute, responsive and wise. You are cautious and observant.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9						
			5		6	8		4
7				2			1	
8				9			3	
			3			7		2
		7		5				1
9	2		7	4			5	
	7	8				4		
6		4			5			

Difficulty: ★★★★ 9/1

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	2	9	5	8	1	7	3	4
8	3	5	7	4	9	2	6	1
1	7	4	3	2	6	9	5	8
2	5	8	9	6	7	1	4	3
3	4	7	8	1	2	6	9	5
9	6	1	4	3	5	8	7	2
7	1	3	6	5	8	4	2	9
4	8	6	2	9	3	5	1	7
5	9	2	1	7	4	3	8	6

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/31

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RILEY KEOUGH **Solution: 10 letters**

T	S	Y	A	W	A	N	U	R	N	O	R	A	M	E
P	H	I	L	B	B	A	B	Y	G	O	M	A	C	K
R	I	G	V	I	E	D	R	I	L	A	R	N	E	A
E	L	N	I	L	L	N	I	E	R	I	A	O	K	U
S	L	O	A	N	E	A	D	D	E	D	P	X	I	Q
L	A	B	C	F	T	M	G	E	N	A	L	I	M	H
E	H	H	A	Y	E	A	E	U	G	I	U	N	C	T
Y	S	O	N	P	A	T	S	E	D	D	C	R	I	R
M	R	N	N	E	A	M	S	E	G	O	O	D	G	A
A	A	E	E	A	I	C	E	E	M	D	C	L	A	E
D	M	Y	S	T	L	R	I	R	A	O	S	T	M	C
M	A	I	H	U	F	L	R	O	I	P	C	I	O	A
A	L	R	I	B	L	Y	R	U	F	C	L	T	N	R
X	O	S	S	E	R	T	C	A	C	Y	A	A	I	G
E	Z	N	M	D	P	E	T	E	R	S	E	N	Y	D

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Actress, Amanda, American, Baby, Ben, Bird, Bridges, Cannes, Capable, Cuba, Currie, Danny, Debut, Doctor, Drama, Earthquake, Elvis, Emily, Fury, Good, Grace, Honey, It Comes at Night, Lily, Lisa, Lodge, Mad Max, Magic Mike, Marie, Marshall, Mellie, Nixon, Nora, Pages, Petersen, Play, Presley, Road, Role, Runaways, Sing, Sloane, Smith, Stefani, Sundance, Zola

Yesterday's Answer: Twizzlers

The NEW TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Slovenia, Puerto Rico, Greece complete field for 2nd round at World Cup

OKINAWA, Japan (AP)— Slovenia, Puerto Rico and Greece picked up victories Wednesday at the basketball World Cup to complete the field of 16 teams for the second round.

Slovenia defeated Cape Verde 92-77, led by 19 points from NBA star Luka Doncic. Puerto Rico routed winless China 107-89 behind 22 points from former NBA player Tremont Waters. Greece defeated New Zealand 83-74 with 27 points from Ioannis Papapetrou.

Earlier in the day, Serbia, Georgia and Brazil also reached the second round. Serbia defeated South Sudan 115-83 with 25 points from 20-year-old Nikola Jovic. Georgia topped Venezuela 70-59 behind 25 points from Tornike Shengelia. Brazil beat Ivory Coast 89-77 with Yago Santos scoring 24 points and adding 12 assists.

Ten teams had already advanced: the Dominican Republic, Australia, Italy, Spain, the United States, Canada, Germany, Lativa, Lithuania and Montenegro.

AP

Greece forward Ioannis Papapetrou (21) shoots over New Zealand forward Yannick Wetzell (7) during the second half of a Basketball World Cup group C match in Manila, Philippines Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023.

GROUP F
SLOVENIA 92, CAPE VERDE 77

At Okinawa, Doncic led Slovenia (3-0), as he has throughout the tournament, with 19 points, seven rebounds and nine assists to guide the team into the second round. Right behind was teammate Klemen Prepelic with 18 points, four rebounds and seven assists.

Cape Verde (1-2), which has played far better than most expected, was led by Betinho Gomes with 17 points and Kenneti Mendes with 10.

GROUP B
PUERTO RICO 107, CHINA 89

At Manila, Waters had 22 points and six assists as Puerto Rico advanced. Puerto Rico had six players in double digits.

Ismael Romero scored 18 points and added 10 rebounds for Puerto Rico (2-1). Puerto Rico joined Serbia as the teams to progress from Group B.

Zhao Rui scored 16 points for winless China (0-3). Minnesota Timberwolves sixth-man Kyle Anderson, who picked up Chinese citizenship days before the tournament opened, scored nine points in 31 minutes.

GROUP C
GREECE 83, NEW ZEALAND 74

At Manila, Papapetrou scored 27 points and teammate Giannoulis Larentzakis hit 20 as Greece (2-1) advanced. The United States won the group and also qualified.

Greece broke the game open in the final quarter, outscoring New Zealand 33-20 with Papapetrou and Larentzakis consistently scoring key baskets late.

Shea Ili led New Zealand (1-2) with 27 points and Reuben Te Rangi scored 19.

GROUP G
SPAIN 85, IRAN 65

At Jakarta, Juancho Hernangomez had 21 points and his brother Willy scored 16 to lead defending champion Spain (3-0), which had already advanced to the second round. Santiago Aldama added 11.

Brazil is the other qualifier from the group.

Iran (0-3) was led by Mohammad Amini with 19 points.

GROUP B
SERBIA 115, SOUTH SUDAN 83

At Manila, Jovic shot 9 of 9 from the floor as Serbia (3-0) beat South Sudan (1-2) to reach the round of 16. Bogdan Bogdanovic added 23 points and nine assists.

Jovic and Bogdanovic combined for 18 points in the first quarter as Serbia led 30-20 and steadily built its lead.

Peter Jok scored 21 points for South Sudan but Chicago Bulls guard Carlik Jones had just three points in 22 minutes.

GROUP F
GEORGIA 70, VENEZUELA 59

At Okinawa, Shengelia scored 25 points and Goga Bitadze had 11 points and 11 rebounds as Georgia advanced.

Georgia, which is playing for the first time in the World Cup, led 42-23 at the half as Venezuela (0-3) scored only four points in the second quarter.

Nestor Colmenares had 16 points and 12 rebounds to lead Venezuela. Jose Materan added 12. Both teams struggled from 3-point range. Georgia was 5 of 23 and Venezuela was 6 of 25.

GROUP G
BRAZIL 89, IVORY COAST 77

At Jakarta, Yago Santos scored 24 points and added 12 assists and Brazil (2-1) advanced into the second round, a bounce back after not qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics. Tim Soares added 15 points for the winners.

Brazil went 14 of 31 from 3-point range.

Cedric Bah led Ivory Coast (1-2) with 13 points and 13 rebounds.

USA rolls past Jordan 110-62; Round 2 of World Cup awaits

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Another game, another blowout for the U.S. at the Basketball World Cup. And now the competition figures to get considerably tougher.

Anthony Edwards scored 22 points and the Americans completed an easy march through the group stage Wednesday, beating Jordan 110-62 to improve to 3-0 and finish atop Group C. Second-round play for the U.S. starts Friday against Montenegro.

"Staying aggressive, staying confident, it's just something that I do," Edwards said. "It paid off today."

Bobby Portis scored 13 for the U.S., which led by 19 after one quarter and 62-33 at the half. Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 12 and Jalen Brunson added 10.

"It's always fun when everybody gets to play and contribute," U.S. coach Steve Kerr said.

Rondae Hollis-Jefferson—the only player with any NBA experience on Jordan's roster—led his team with 20 points and seven rebounds. Jordan finished group play 0-3 and will play in the classification round for non-second-round teams starting Thursday.

AP

Jordan forward Rondae Hollis Jefferson (24) is fouled by U.S. forward Jaren Jackson Jr. (13) as he shoots during the first half of a Basketball World Cup group C match in Manila, Philippines Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023.

"We tried our best," Jordan's Ahmad Hammouri said. "We fought. It was a really good experience for me and the guys. We just tried to have fun out there."

The U.S. improved to 8-0 overall this summer, counting five exhibitions played on the way to Manila. They're one of three teams that won all three group-stage games by at least 20 points—joining Group H winner Canada and Group D winner Lithuania, which will face the Americans in the second-round finale on Sunday.

This one was the easiest of the three for the U.S., which beat New Zealand by 27 in its opener and Greece by 28 on Monday.

"We tried to slow them down as much as possible," Jordan coach Wesam Al-Sous said. "We failed. They scored 110 points."

Much of that was because of Edwards, who had 13 points in the first quarter when the seeds for the blowout were being planted. He was up to 18 by halftime, plus set a tone with his on-ball defense and the Americans were never even mildly threatened.

"Pressure? No, not at all," Edwards said. "I love the game of basketball. It's fun for me. I go out there and do what I love and I put in the work every day, so it's no pressure—at all."

Hollis-Jefferson has tried to fashion his game—not to mention his current haircut, it seems, since there is a striking similarity—after Los Angeles Lakers legend Kobe Bryant, even wearing No. 24 on his jersey for Jordan this summer.

If this was his audition to get back to the NBA, after not playing in the league since June 2021, it wasn't bad. He had 66 points in Jordan's first two games at the World Cup, then shot 6 for 16 on Wednesday—while again getting the occasional "Kobe! Kobe!" chants from some in the crowd in Manila.

Hollis-Jefferson spent a short stint with Edwards and Minnesota before the start of the 2020-21 season. Hollis-Jefferson never played a real game with the Timberwolves, but Edwards remembered their time together.

"He was kind of like my vet when I was a rookie," Edwards said. "We haven't seen each other since then, so it was fun to catch up."

Yankees end 10-series winless streak, beat Tigers 6-2 as Torres homers

DETROIT (AP)—The New York Yankees ended a 10-series winless streak as Gleyber Torres homered for the third straight game in a 6-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday night.

"I'm trying to follow my plan every day and when I get to home plate, do all the little things," Torres said. "I'm just trying to enjoy this and try to hit the pitches I can hit."

Torres is hitting .273 with 23 homers and 57 RBIs.

"I honestly think he's hit even better than his numbers would suggest," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "He's been really consistent—it's been quality at-bats since jump street—and it has been good to see him put together a month like this."

DJ LaMahieu and Giancarlo Stanton also homered for the Yankees, who have won the first three games of the four-game set. They hadn't won a series since sweeping three games from Kansas City from July 21-23 and hadn't taken a road series since winning two of three at Oakland from June 27-29.

"We've been putting together good at-bats for a while, but sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't," Stanton said. "We've had a great series here and hopefully we can get the sweep tomorrow."

Stanton reached 20 homers for the 12th time in 14 seasons, the most times at 20 in the major leagues since 2010. He has 398 homers in his big league career.

Gerrit Cole (12-4) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings, winning back-to-back starts for the first time since May 28 and June 3. His 2.95 ERA dropped into second in the AL behind Minnesota's Sonny Gray at 2.92.

Ian Hamilton finished a four-hitter for his second save.

Jake Rogers and Spencer Torkelson homered for the Tigers, who have lost five straight and seven of nine on a 10-game homestand.

Detroit's attempt to use Brendan White (2-3) as an opener against New York's righty-heavy lineup was unsuccessful. He struck out the first two batters he faced but the next five reached base. Stanton had an RBI single and scored when White hit Everson Periera with a pitch with the bases loaded.

"The first two batters were incredible and then the execution went sideways," Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said. "That all happened in a span of 25 pitches."

Joey Wentz allowed a second-inning homer to LeMahieu and a third-inning RBI single by Everson Pereira.

Torres and Stanton homered on consecutive pitches in the fourth, the third time in four games the Yankees hit back-to-back homers. Torres is batting .340 with seven home runs in August, and the Yankees have hit 20 in their last eight games.

"I think it is a matter of wearing the pitchers down," Stanton said. "We've had some high strikeout games, but if you see six or seven pitches, you are wearing him down for the next guy."

Tigers center fielder Parker Meadows robbed Oswald Pereza of an extra-base hit with a spectacular running catch in the fifth.

"He's clearly a very good centerfielder, but it isn't just because of the miraculous plays like that," Hinch said. "It's his positioning on plays and the way he can come in and turn what might be a double into a single."

AP

New York Yankees second baseman Gleyber Torres (25) and right fielder Aaron Judge celebrate the team's win over the Detroit Tigers after the ninth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023, in Detroit.

WHITE SOX 10, ORIOLES 5

BALTIMORE (AP)—Coming off two consecutive lopsided victories over the sagging Chicago White Sox, the Baltimore Orioles appeared headed for another blowout after bolting to a four-run lead in the first inning of the series finale.

Unfortunately for the AL East-leading Orioles, it wasn't enough of a cushion for 13-game winner Kyle Gibson.

Chicago hit three home runs off Gibson to rally from that early deficit and pulled out a 10-5 win Wednesday to avoid a three-game sweep.

Anthony Santander homered for the Orioles, who hit two doubles and a pair of singles in the first inning off Dylan Cease before fading to their third loss in 12 games.

Luis Robert Jr. hit his 35th home run in the third inning to put Chicago ahead for good. Andrew Vaughn and Óscar Colás also went deep for the White Sox, who were outscored 18-3 in the first two games of the series.

GUARDIANS 5, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Cleveland Guardians aren't conceding, despite all that has gone wrong for the defending AL Central champions this season.

Kole Calhoun, of all players, sure won't allow it.

Calhoun hit a three-run home run in the 10th inning to cap a late comeback against the Minnesota bullpen, and the Guardians beat the Twins 5-2 on Wednesday to trim their division deficit to five games.

Five relievers had a hand in squandering another stellar start by Sonny Gray, who gave the Twins seven scoreless innings. Emilio Pagán (5-2) took the loss despite pitching the best of the bunch. He got the first two outs in the 10th and intentionally walked José Ramírez before yielding to rookie Kody Funderburk, who made his major league debut Monday with two perfect innings against the Guardians.

Calhoun crushed his 3-0 fastball into the seats behind right-center, prompting a collective sigh from the crowd of 20,169.

CUBS 3, BREWERS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Cody Bellinger drove in the tiebreaking run with a ricochet infield single in the eighth inning and the Chicago Cubs beat Milwaukee 3-2 on Wednesday to pull within three games of the first-place Brewers in the NL Central.

Bellinger's sharply hit ball up the middle glanced off the right ankle of reliever Joel Payamps and to third baseman Andruw Monasterio. Bellinger beat out Monasterio's throw, allowing Mike Tauchman to score from third. It was Chicago's third and final hit of the game.

After dropping the first game of the series Monday, the Cubs came back to take the next two with solid pitching and defense. At 71-62, Chicago is a season-high nine games above .500.

Bellinger, with 18 RBIs in his last 12 games and a major league-leading 54 since July, has helped lead Chicago's climb back into the playoff picture.

Chicago had ended Milwaukee's nine-game winning streak Tuesday with a 1-0 win behind six solid innings from All-Star left-hander Justin Steele, followed by three innings of one-hit relief.

REDS 4, GIANTS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Christian Encarnacion-Strand homered and drove in three runs in his first four-hit game in the majors, and the Cincinnati Reds beat the San Francisco Giants 4-1 on Wednesday to avoid a three-game sweep.

Encarnacion-Strand, a Bay Area native who played at College Park High School in Pleasant Hill, finished a triple shy of the cycle.

Elly De La Cruz and Luke Maile each had two hits, and Hunter Greene outdueled Logan Webb in his first career start against San Francisco.

Greene (3-6) struck out six in 5 1/3 innings in his first win since June 17. The right-hander, who missed much of this season with a right hip injury, allowed an unearned run and three hits.

Greene felt ill after the game and left the clubhouse early.

MARINERS 5, ATHLETICS 4

SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle Mariners center fielder Julio Rodríguez was out of the lineup for the second straight day Wednesday due to soreness in his left foot.

Seattle manager Scott Servais said Rodríguez received treatment during the Mariners' 5-4 win over Oakland with the hope that he may be able to get back into the lineup this weekend during their series in New York with the Mets.

Rodríguez was scratched shortly before first pitch on Tuesday night. Servais said after the game a pinched nerve in Rodríguez's foot caused the discomfort.

Rodríguez has enjoyed the finest month of his career in August, hitting .429 with seven homers, 10 doubles and 30 RBIs in 23 games.

PIRATES 4, ROYALS 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Andre Jackson pitched two-hit ball into the sixth inning in his first major league win, and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Kansas City Royals 4-1 on Wednesday night for a three-game sweep.

Jackson (1-1) struck out a career-high seven and walked two in 5 2/3 innings. The 27-year-old right-hander, who made his big league debut in 2021 with the Los Angeles Dodgers, allowed one run in his 20th major league appearance.

Jackson became the first Pirate to strike out the first five batters in a game since Bruce Kison in 1979. But the last part of his outing was more difficult.

Bryan Reynolds and Jack Suwinski homered for the Pirates (61-73), and Vinny Capra hit an RBI double.

DODGERS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 0

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Freddie Freeman and Jason Heyward hit two-run homers in the third inning, Mookie Betts had his 18th multi-hit game in August and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 7-0 on Wednesday night for a three-game sweep.

The Dodgers' 24 wins in August is the most since the franchise moved to Los Angeles. They are one win away for the most in a month, set by the Brooklyn Dodgers in July 1947 and August 1953.

The NL West leaders won their fourth in a row overall and fifth straight at home, outscoring the D-backs 23-5 in the series and finishing with their 13th shutout of the season. The Dodgers outhit the D-backs 38-20.

ANGELS 10, PHILLIES 8

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryce Harper hit his 300th home run, going deep against the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday to become the 158th player to reach that mark.

Harper hit the milestone homer against Matt Moore in the eighth inning Wednesday for his 15th homer this season. The two-run drive, in Harper's 1,481st game, put Philadelphia ahead by a run, but the Phillies would cough up that lead in the ninth and lose 10-8.

He homered in three straight games for the second time this month and has 10 homers in August. Moore was the 224th pitcher he went deep against.

Harper and Moore were 1-2 among Baseball America's top prospects in 2012.

CARDINALS 5, PADRES 4

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Tommy Edman has something in common with Albert Pujols.

Edman hit a two-run homer off Josh Hader in the ninth for his second walk-off hit in two days off the All-Star closer, and the St. Louis Cardinals beat San Diego 5-4 on Wednesday.

Edman became the first Cardinals player with consecutive walk-off RBIs since Pujols against the Chicago Cubs on June 4-5, 2011.

St. Louis trailed 4-3 before Masyn Winn doubled off Hader (0-3) with two outs in the ninth and Edman sliced a sinker to the opposite field and into the Cardinals bullpen behind the right-field wall.

Edman also became the first Cardinals player with three stolen bases since Harrison Bader on April 23 last year. Edman has 20 this season.

BLUE JAYS 7, NATIONALS 0

TORONTO (AP)—Alejandro Kirk had three hits and three RBIs, Chris Bassitt and Jay Jackson combined on a five-hitter and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Washington Nationals 7-0 on Wednesday.

Santiago Espinal had two hits and two RBIs and Ernie Clement had two hits and drove in a run as the Blue Jays took two of three from the Nationals, denying Washington a sixth straight series victory.

Kirk hit a two-run double in the first inning, doubled and scored in the fourth, singled and scored in the sixth and hit a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

ASTROS 7, RED SOX 4

BOSTON (AP)—The defending World Series champions are heading into September in position to make another long postseason run.

The Houston Astros won their fifth straight game on Wednesday, earning their first sweep at Fenway Park with a 7-4 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

Framber Valdez retired the first 10 Boston batters one start after pitching seven no-hit innings and took a shutout into the sixth inning for the Astros, who ended the day one percentage point behind Seattle in the AL West, one game ahead of Texas.

METS 6, RANGERS 5

NEW YORK (AP)—DJ Stewart homered twice, then forced in the winning run when he was hit by an Aroldis Chapman pitch with the bases loaded in the 10th inning as the New York Mets beat Texas 6-5 on Wednesday night and dropped the Rangers into third place in the tight AL West.

Stewart also made a running backhand catch while crashing into the fence in the ninth inning, robbing Marcus Semien of an extra-base hit. Moments later, the announced crowd of 23,849 serenaded him with chants of "DJ Stewart!"

A year after winning 101 games, the Mets are last in the NL East, 8 1/2 games out of a playoff spot.

Olympian Annie La Fleur to facilitate free basketball coaching workshop, clinics

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Basketball enthusiasts are in for a treat as Olympian and FIBA Oceania National Federation and Sport Development manager, Annie La Fleur, is visiting the CNMI this Sunday, September 3, from Australia.

During her visit until Monday, Sept. 11, La Fleur is facilitating a free coach and referee workshop for Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation officials, national coaches, Public School System physical education teachers—and it's open to the public as well.

Along with the workshop, La Fleur is hosting several basketball clinics and is also visiting several high schools.

The coaching workshops are set for Wednesday, Sept. 6, and Thursday, Sept. 7 from 5pm to 8:30pm; the referee workshop is from Friday, Sept. 8 at 5pm to 8:30pm, and Saturday, Sept. 9 from 9am to 12pm.

The junior national girls program clinic is on Tuesday from 6pm to 7:30pm; for U14 girls on Saturday, 1:30pm to 3pm; junior national girls program clinic is from 3:30pm to 5pm; and the women's open clinic is from 5:30pm to 7pm.

Aside from being the development manager for FIBA Oceania, she is an Olympian silver medalist with team Australia at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, and was also a former Women's National Basketball Association player.

NMIBF president James Lee said on La Fleur's arrival, "We are extremely grateful for her to be able to make it down to NMI not just to visit—but [to] assist us with our continuous effort to grow the sport of basketball and also elevate at our competitive level."

He also extends his thanks to FIBA Oceania, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Olympian and FIBA Oceania National Federation and Sport Development manager Annie La Fleur is visiting the CNMI this Sunday, Sept. 3 for a coaching/referee workshop and basketball clinics.

Nebraska volleyball stadium event draws 92,003

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—Nebraska's fight song begins, "There is no place like Nebraska." When it comes to volleyball, those words never rang more true than Wednesday night.

» Attendance sets women's world record

The Cornhuskers laid claim to the world record for largest attendance at a women's sporting event with 92,003 filling Memorial Stadium for their volleyball match against Omaha.

The university took aim at the record last spring when it announced it would hold a daylong celebration of a sport that enjoys immense popularity in this state of fewer than 2 million.

"We took a chance by playing in Memorial Stadium, and to go for the record and break it. ... I don't think anybody could have envisioned that when this whole thing started," Nebraska coach John Cook said. "It feels like a great accomplishment for this sport called volleyball played by women. It's a state treasure. We proved it."

TUTURAMZ

From page 24

Blue Jays to fly away with the win. Team Mac came up short by just one—as the game was 13-10 in their last at-bat—they only brought in two runs from Josiah Lizama's home run.

Both teams were neck-and-neck throughout the game, with the Blue Jays dividing their runs throughout.

Three runs were made in the first, then two from a two-RBI home run by Kier Agda and another from a solo homer by Willie Cabrera to make it a 6-5 game—after Team Mac scored five in the first inning.

From there, the Blue Jays scored six more before their last run in the seventh inning.

Kebruka 29, Dat's It 28

Kebruka basically mirrored the Blue Jays' game and won by one run in the last inning over Dat's It, 29-28.

But this time, Kebruka was the home team and Nate Kaipat scored the tie-breaking go-ahead home run in the bottom of the last inning for a walk-off win.

Throughout the game, it was a flex of who could hit the most home runs—Kebruka with 10 and Dat's It also with 10. However, it was Kaipat's home run that dealt the blow to clinch the win for Kebruka.

LEGENDS

From page 24

Tibayan, and Dante Tabora.

Coupled with their accurate attempts—and the lack thereof from Vizion—the Legends' lead only seemed to widen further.

Vizion slightly turned things around after half time, but were still somewhat lacking on following through with their shots. Ariel Baul tried to take them home in the third quarter but with lack of support from the rest of his teammates, Legends was able to nail a 24-point lead.

Vizion inched a little closer to the Legends' gassed out players and came a few points behind to actually taking the lead—but Legends' crucial field goals and last-minute foul shots solidified their first win of the league.

In the open division on Tuesday night, Priority Care edged Socho, 64-56 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Priority Care's Steve King wasted no time as he manhandled the ball himself throughout the game. His efforts finally paid off as his league-high 45 points secured the first win for his team.

This, after they were behind in the first half of the game. Socho led by six points in the first quarter and then just by four points in the second.

King's explosion of points in the second half—along with solid defense and screens from the team, pushed them into the lead at the end of the third quarter. They carried their momentum into the last quarter as Socho fell by eight points.

In other results, Easy Riders defeated Loving Hands, 90-63 on Monday night; JSN won against Longshot, 74-60, and JTM Saipan beat Vik Team, 76-62 last Saturday.

The other games last Friday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday were rescheduled due to rain.

Legends 86 – Villacrusis 17, Binuya 15, D. Tibayan 14, Tabora 13, R. Tibayan 10, Fitial 8, Guinto 2, Ebuen 2, De Jesus 3, Zapata 2.

Vizion 74 – Baul 24, Mortos 13, Pablo 11, Palero 10, Tenorio 9, Catalla 4, Itaas 2, Jumaquio 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-12, 48-25, 65-41, 86-74.

Priority Care 64 – King 45, Agulto 10, Elamento 4, Taimanao 2, Reyes 2, Pelisamen 1.

Socho 56 – Juanito Sambile 13, Q. Faisao 9, Timmy Pangelinan 9, D. Faisao 8, Toshi Pangelinan 6, Guerrero 6, Castro 3, Limes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-16, 26-30, 45-41, 64-15.

IGITOL

From page 24

the sun came out and the track was perfectly tacky. Everyone loves a tacky track!"

The Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School teacher found it "a very humbling feeling knowing that I completed another season of motocross racing with my daughter, Anella Igitol, and significant other, Byron Castro."

Igitol said she's only been racing for the past three years and that her ride for the past two seasons is a Monster Edition YZ125, which was a Christmas gift from two years ago. She said it's definitely an upgrade to her first bike, a KX125.

She dedicated her win to the MRA, saying she is "thankful that they brought motocross back so my family and I are able to experience the adrenaline together." She added, "Thank you to everyone who has helped us in any way or form since we started racing and a big shoutout to Team Naughty Natives."

In the Big Boys ATV Class, Christian Camacho came out on top with a 50-point sweep; Greg Clark was second with 44 points; and Henry Camacho took third place with 40 points.

Dave Celis took first place with a sweep of 50 points in the Veterans Class; Melvin Cepeda came in second at 44 points; and Charles Cepeda capped the Top 3 with 40 points.

Results of the overall season winners will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

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Slovenia, Puerto Rico, Greece complete field for 2nd round at Basketball World Cup.

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Sports

Yankees end 10-series winless streak, beat Tigers 6-2 as Torres homers.

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Igitol sweeps Mama Class

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Maribel Igitol knew best as she swept the two-woman race in the Mama Class of the last race of the Marianas Racing Association season—the August 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track last Sunday.

Igitol took first place with 50 points, followed by Merissa Rasa's 44 points.

The 37-year-old said she is "ecstatic" after completing the last race of the season. However, "my competitor gave me a run for my money. She held it down for the first couple of laps, and finally, I was able to catch up with her toward the last few laps during the last heat. That definitely pumped up my adrenaline."

During their first heat, the track was slippery and muddy, Igitol said. "A muddy track is always fun but tricky," she said. "During our second heat,

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ANDO AGULTO
Maribel Igitol, aboard her reliable Monster Edition YZ125, leaps through the Cowtown Race Track into first place of the Mama Class during the August 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday.

TuTuRamZ glides past No Choice, 18-8

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

TuTuRamZ glided past No Choice, 18-8, in a run-mercy ruled game in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dan Dan Softball Field.

Despite a quiet first inning, TuTuRamZ came back and demolished No Choice later in the game. No Choice drew first blood with three runs in the first, then three more runs in the second from a three-RBI home run by Jeff Isaac.

No Choice scored their seventh and eighth run in the third inning and that was about all they could muster against the TuTuRamZ' pitching staff.

That was also when TuTuRamZ' offense came alive and put up six by the end of the third inning with a three-run home run each by Derek Aguon and Jason Reyes for a 6-8 game.

The fourth inning was a big one for TuTuRamZ as they pulled way into the lead for a nine-run inning. Henry Reyes brought home three with his home run and back-to-back doubles and a triple kept the runs coming for a 15-8 game.

No Choice batters were then consecutively shut down and were left scoreless by the end of the game as TuTuRamz scored their final three runs in the last inning.

LEIGH GASES
In this file photo, TuTuRamZ' pitcher Henry Reyes winds up for the pitch during a game in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League at the Dan Dan Softball Field.

Blue Jays 13, Team Mac 12

The Blue Jays slipped past Team Mac, 13-12, in a close game.

Paul Salalila hit the crucial solo home run in the last inning, which was enough for the

See TUTURAMZ on Page 23

Legends, Priority Care bag 1st wins in Eagles caging

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Legends and Priority Care finally bagged their first win in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023.

In the master's division, Legends shot down Vizion, 86-74 on Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

It looked to be an easy win for Legends as they maneuvered through Vizion's line of defense with ease. By the second quarter, Legends were up almost by half, 48-25—thanks to free throws and baskets by the trio of Dick Tibayan, Ramil

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LEIGH GASES
Legends' Dante Tabora goes for an uncontested layup during their 86-74 win against Vizion in the Master's Division of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court Wednesday night.